

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Liaw**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,031,397 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 8, 2021**

(54) **MULTI-GATE DEVICE INTEGRATION WITH SEPARATED FIN-LIKE FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTOR CELLS AND GATE-ALL-AROUND TRANSISTOR CELLS**

(71) Applicant: **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.**, Hsinchu (TW)

(72) Inventor: **Jhon Jhy Liaw**, Hsinchu County (TW)

(73) Assignee: **TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.**, Hsinchu (TW)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/524,430**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 29, 2019**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2020/0105761 A1 Apr. 2, 2020

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 62/737,613, filed on Sep. 27, 2018.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H01L 27/092** (2006.01)  
**H01L 21/8238** (2006.01)  
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC .... **H01L 27/0924** (2013.01); **H01L 21/02603** (2013.01); **H01L 21/823807** (2013.01); **H01L 21/823814** (2013.01); **H01L 21/823821** (2013.01); **H01L 21/823878** (2013.01); **H01L 29/42392** (2013.01); **H01L 29/66545** (2013.01);  
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC ..... H01L 21/823821; H01L 21/823807; H01L 21/823814; H01L 21/02603; H01L 21/823878; H01L 21/823431; H01L 21/823412; H01L 27/0924; H01L 27/0207; H01L 27/092; H01L 27/088; H01L 27/0886; H01L 29/66545; H01L 29/42392; H01L 29/66795; H01L 29/785;

(Continued)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

9,236,267 B2 1/2016 De et al.  
9,236,300 B2 1/2016 Liaw  
9,520,482 B1 12/2016 Chang et al.  
9,576,814 B2 2/2017 Wu et al.  
(Continued)

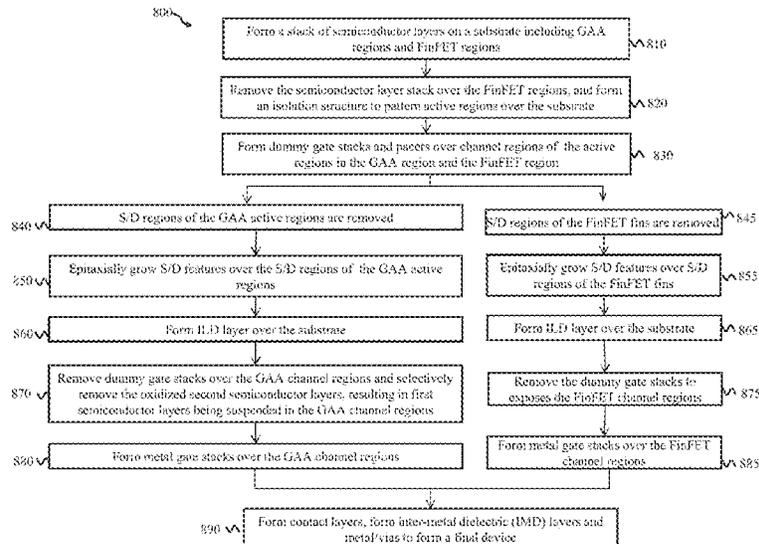
*Primary Examiner* — Herve-Louis Y Assouman

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Haynes and Boone, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Integrated circuit having an integration layout and the manufacturing method thereof are disclosed herein. An exemplary integrated circuit (IC) comprises a first cell including one or more first type gate-all-around (GAA) transistors located in a first region of the integrated circuit; a second cell including one or more second type GAA transistors located in the first region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second cell is disposed adjacently to the first cell, wherein the first type GAA transistors are one of nanosheet transistors or nanowire transistors and the second type GAA transistors are the other one of nanosheet transistors or nanowire transistors; and a third cell including one or more fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) located in a second region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second region is disposed a distance from the first region of the integrated circuit.

**20 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets**



- (51) **Int. Cl.**  
*H01L 29/66* (2006.01)  
*H01L 21/02* (2006.01)  
*H01L 29/423* (2006.01)  
*H01L 29/78* (2006.01)  
*H01L 29/775* (2006.01)  
*H01L 21/8234* (2006.01)  
*H01L 27/02* (2006.01)  
*H01L 27/088* (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**  
 CPC ..... *H01L 29/66795* (2013.01); *H01L 29/785*  
 (2013.01)
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**  
 CPC . H01L 29/665; H01L 29/7848; H01L 29/775;  
 H01L 29/78696  
 See application file for complete search history.

- (56) **References Cited**  
 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
- |              |      |         |              |                      |
|--------------|------|---------|--------------|----------------------|
| 9,613,953    | B2   | 4/2017  | Liaw         |                      |
| 9,793,273    | B2   | 10/2017 | Liaw         |                      |
| 9,805,985    | B2   | 10/2017 | Liaw         |                      |
| 9,853,114    | B1 * | 12/2017 | Rodder       | ..... H01L 29/785    |
| 10,490,559   | B1 * | 11/2019 | Ando         | ..... H01L 29/401    |
| 2009/0261423 | A1 * | 10/2009 | Sawada       | ..... H01L 29/785    |
|              |      |         |              | 257/392              |
| 2013/0105897 | A1 * | 5/2013  | Bangsaruntip | ..... H01L 27/1211   |
|              |      |         |              | 257/351              |
| 2013/0270620 | A1 * | 10/2013 | Hu           | ..... H01L 29/7851   |
|              |      |         |              | 257/296              |
| 2014/0043060 | A1 * | 2/2014  | Amaru        | ..... H03K 19/215    |
|              |      |         |              | 326/36               |
| 2017/0255735 | A1 * | 9/2017  | Kim          | ..... H01L 21/823821 |
| 2017/0256611 | A1 * | 9/2017  | Kim          | ..... H01L 29/775    |
| 2017/0278842 | A1 * | 9/2017  | Song         | ..... H01L 21/823431 |
- \* cited by examiner

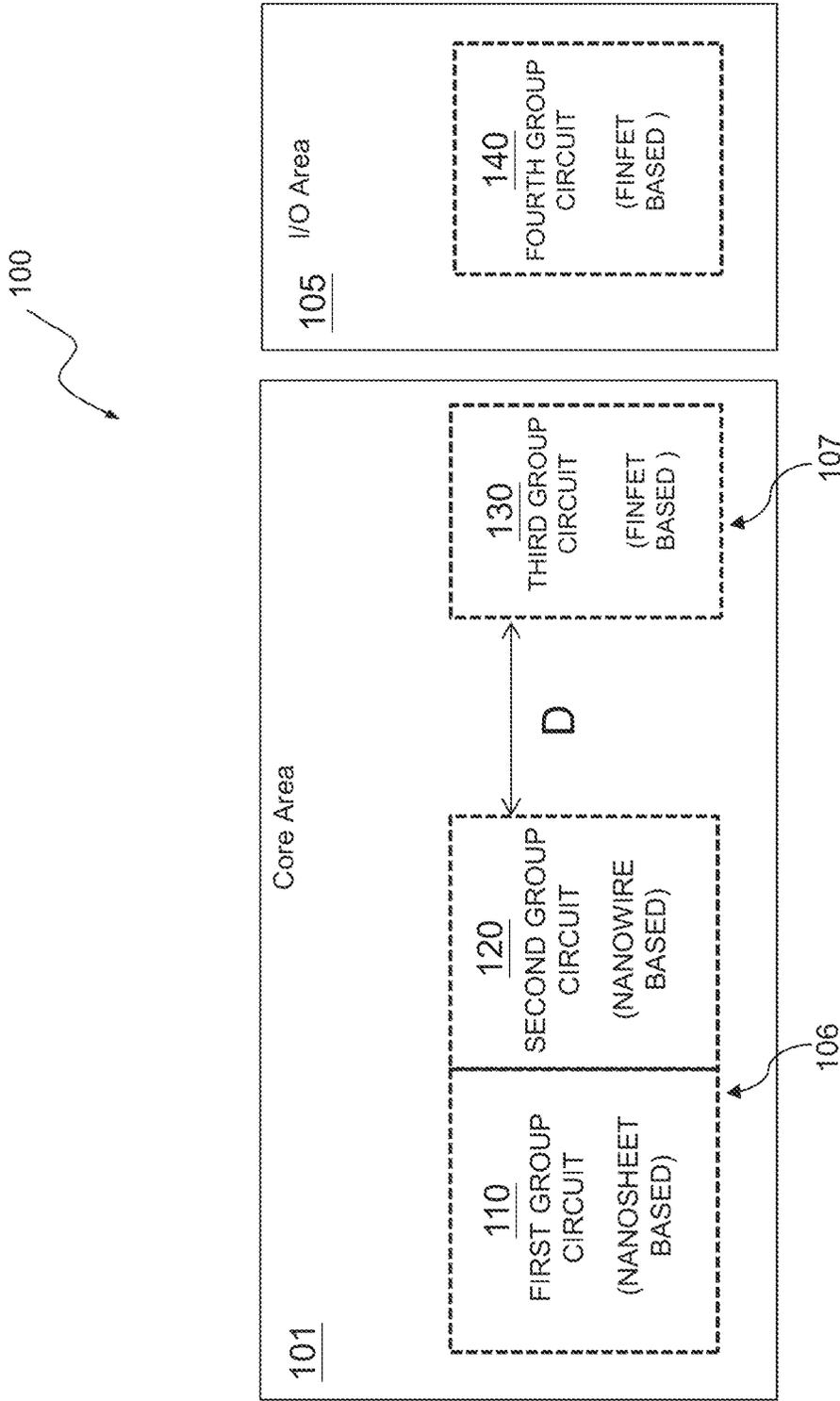


FIG. 1



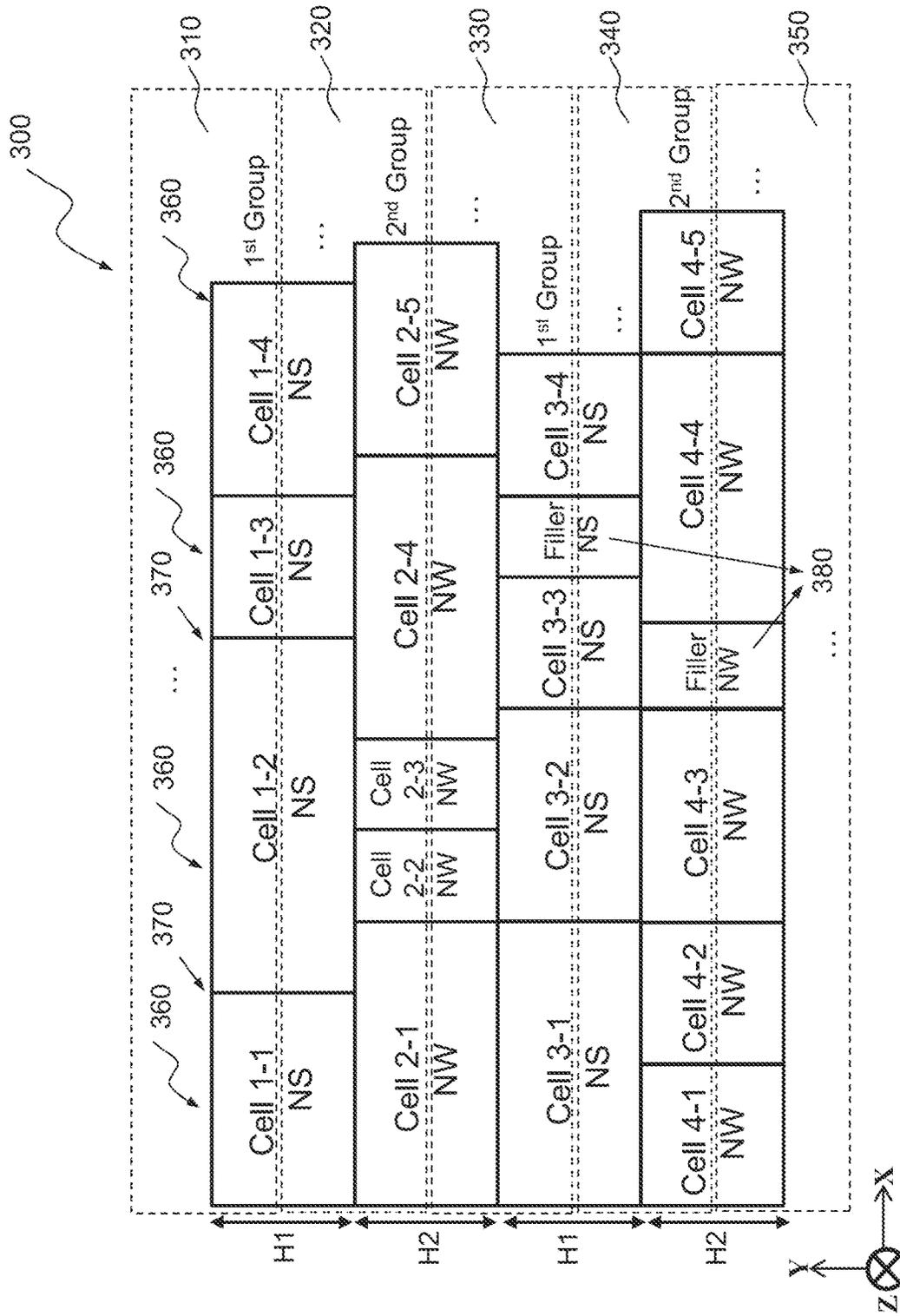


FIG. 3



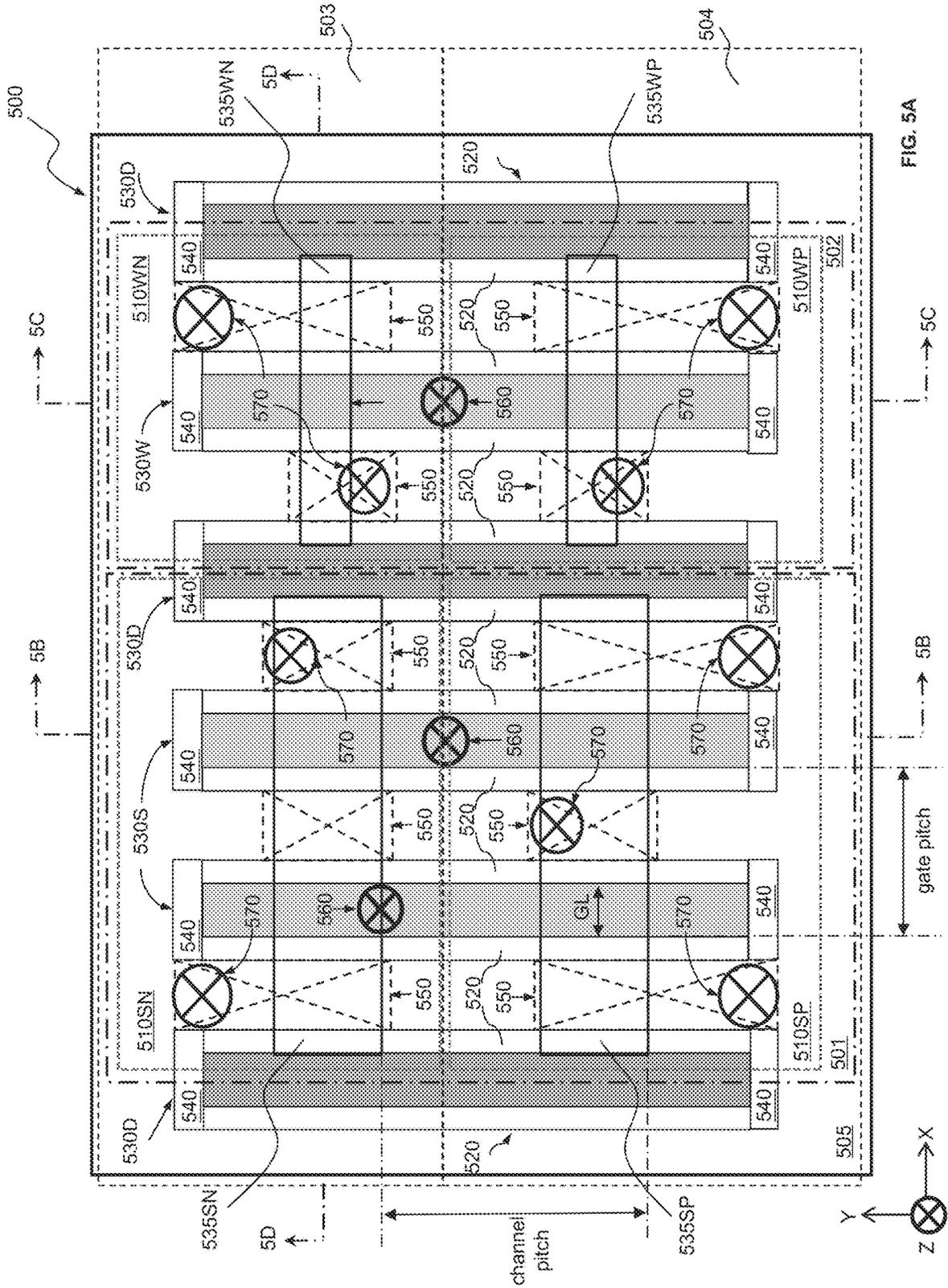


FIG. 5A



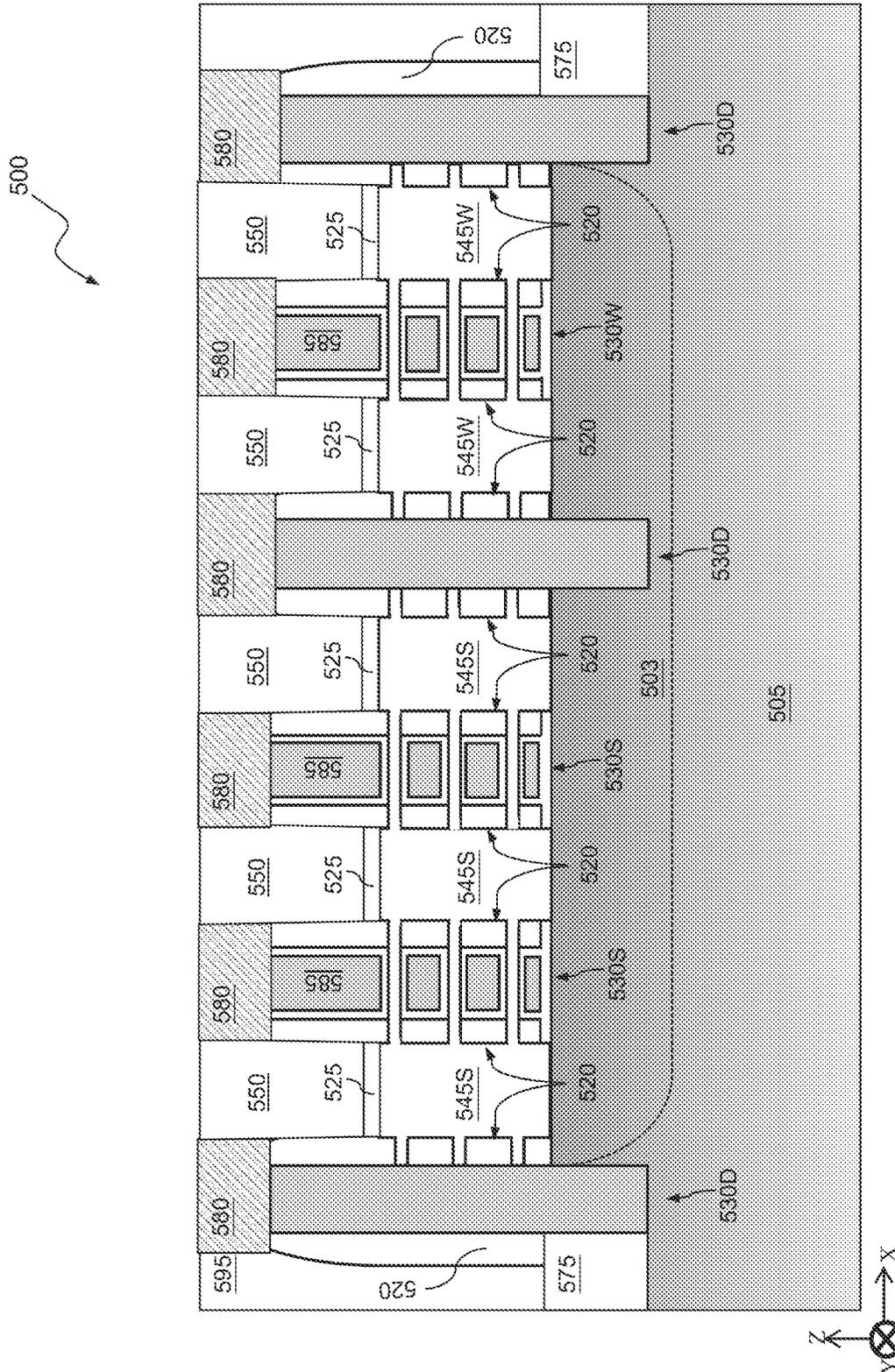


FIG. 5D



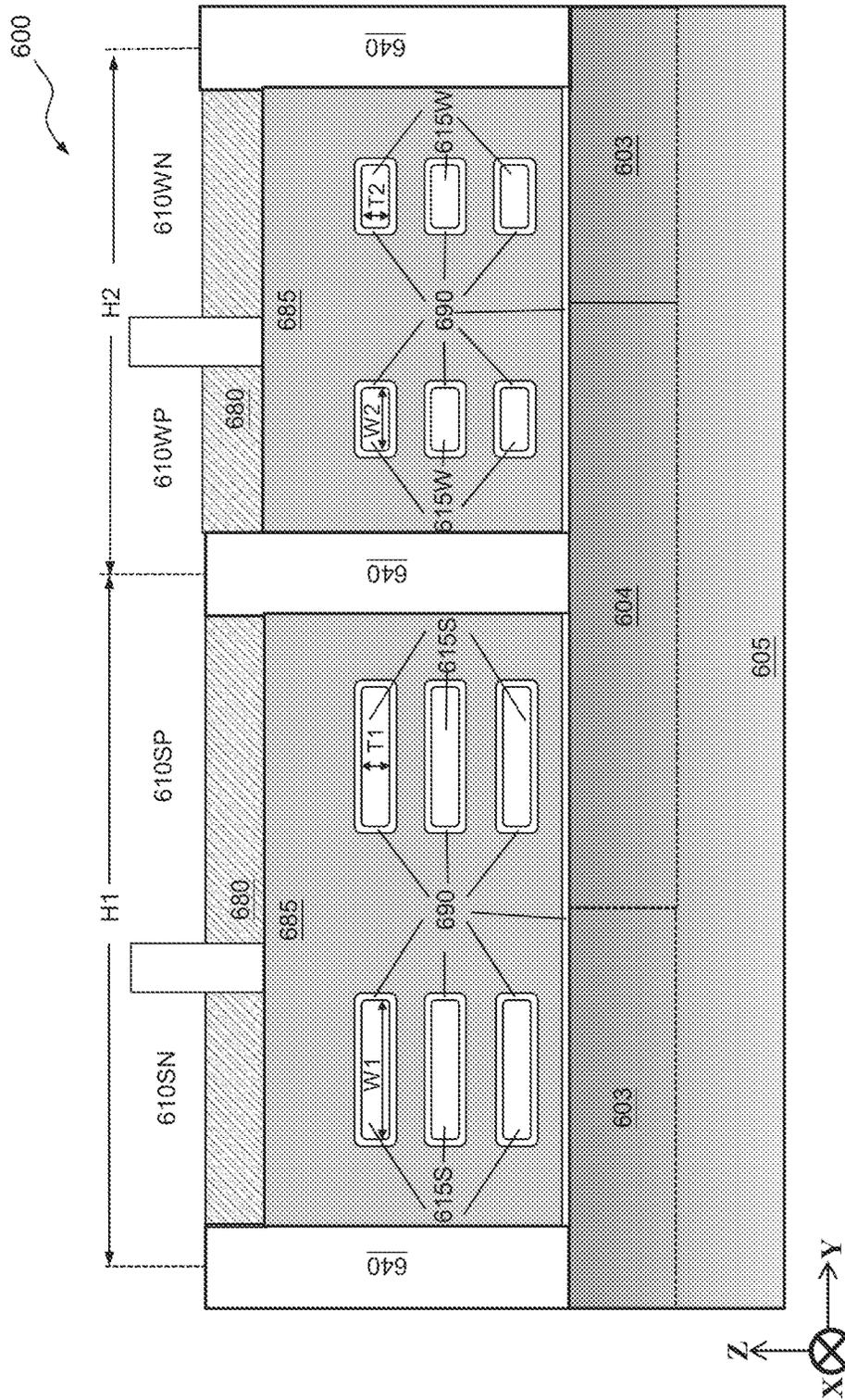


FIG. 6B

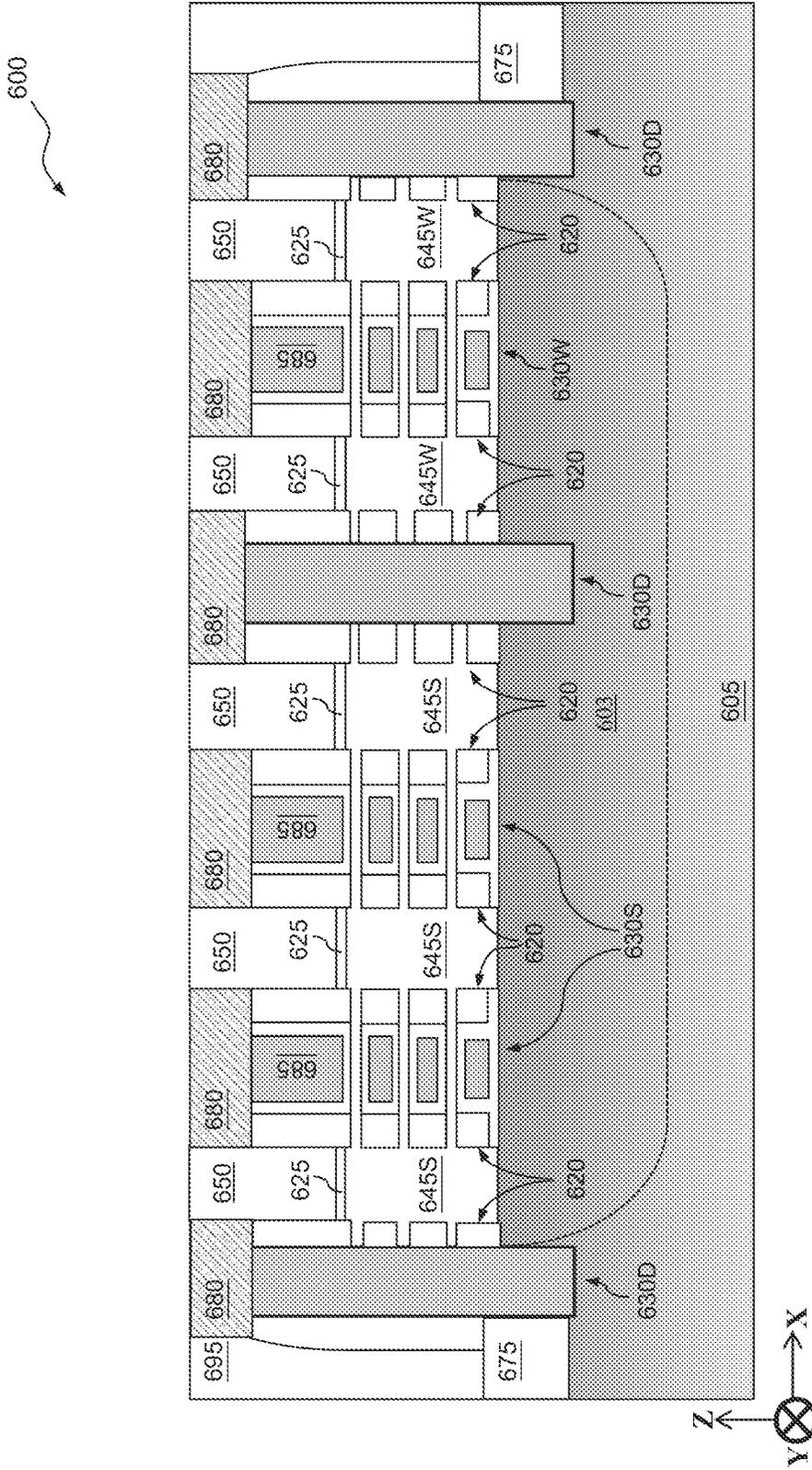


FIG. 6C



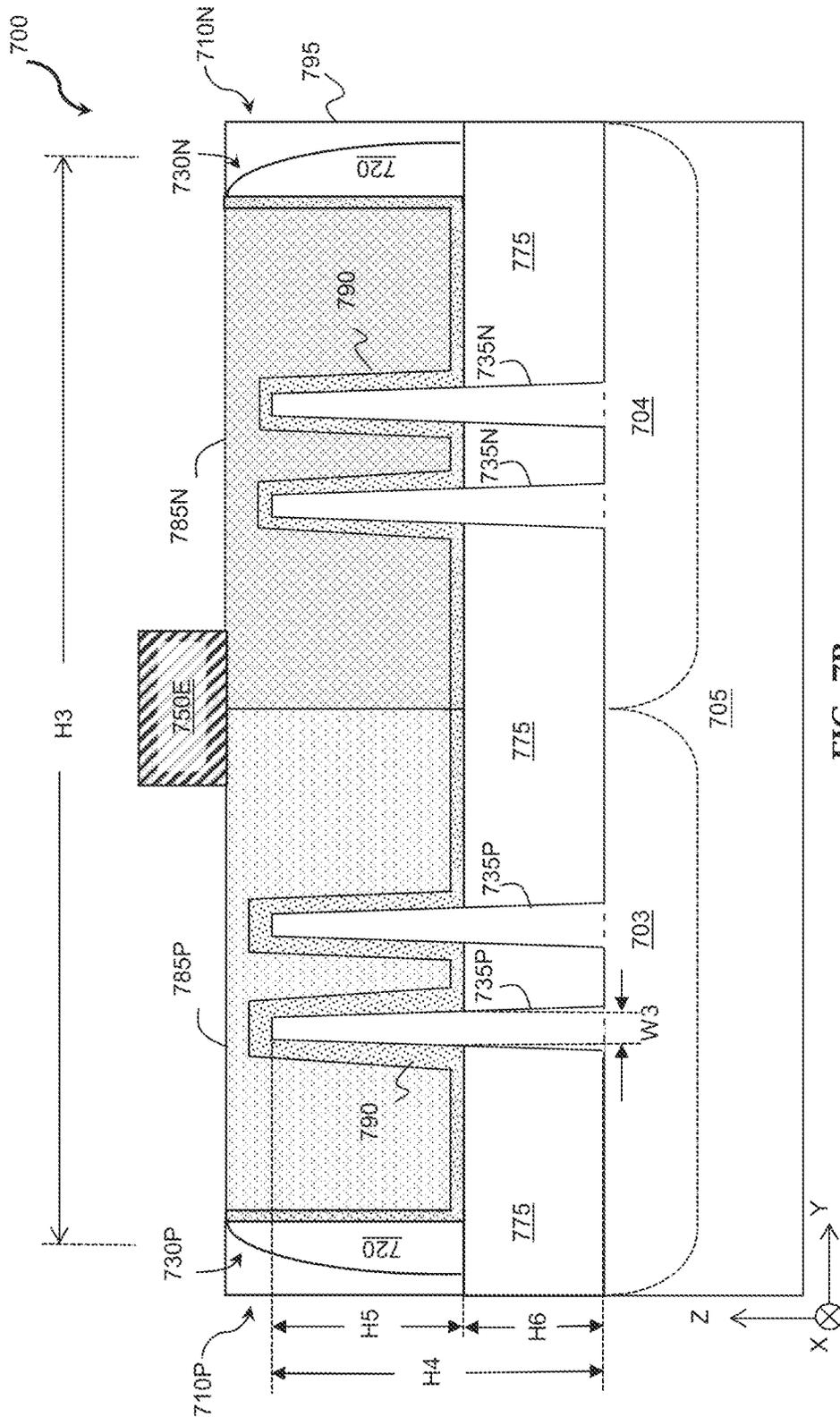


FIG. 7B

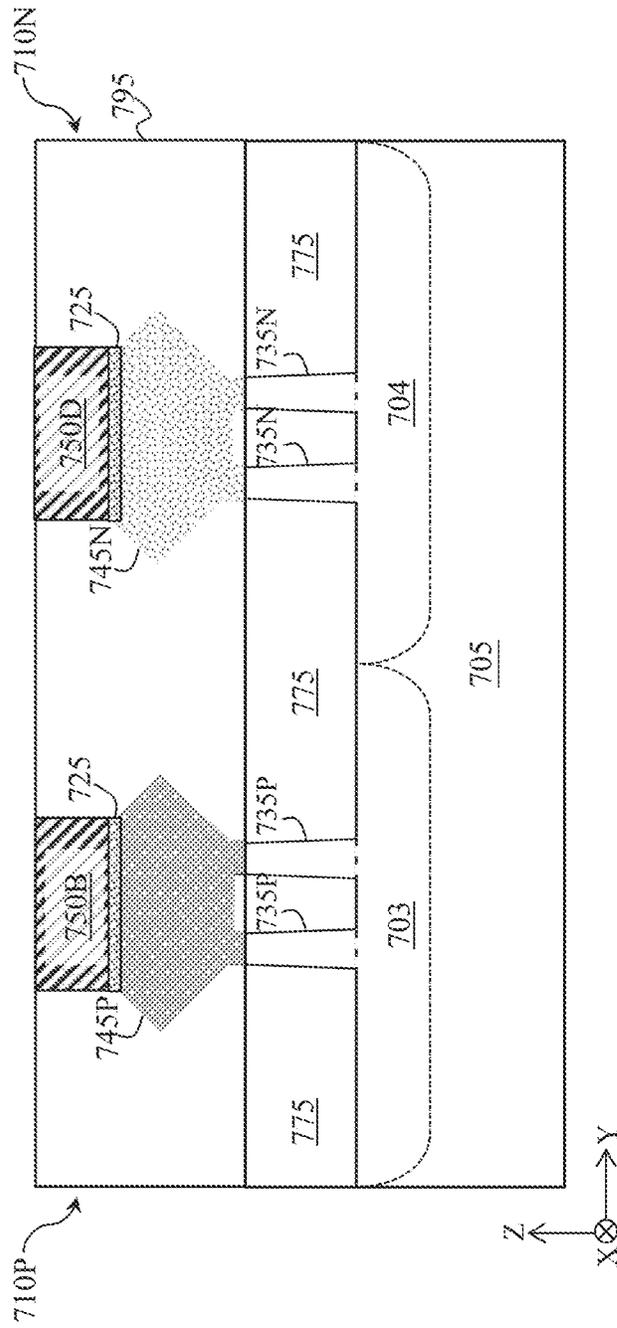


FIG. 7C

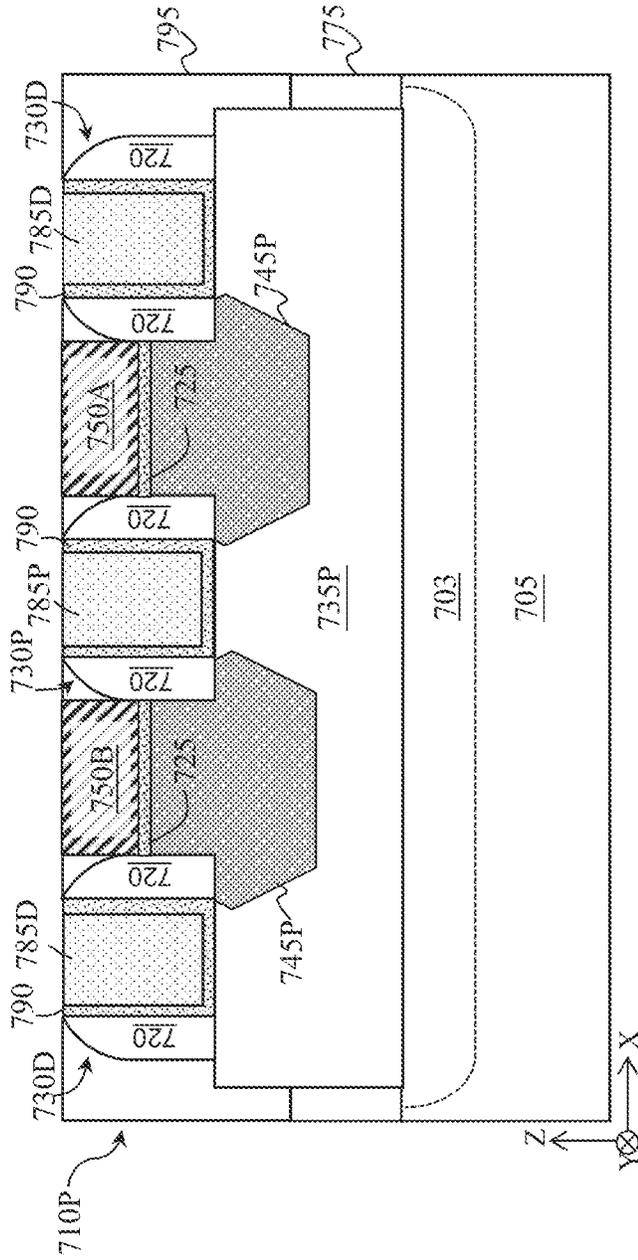


FIG. 7D

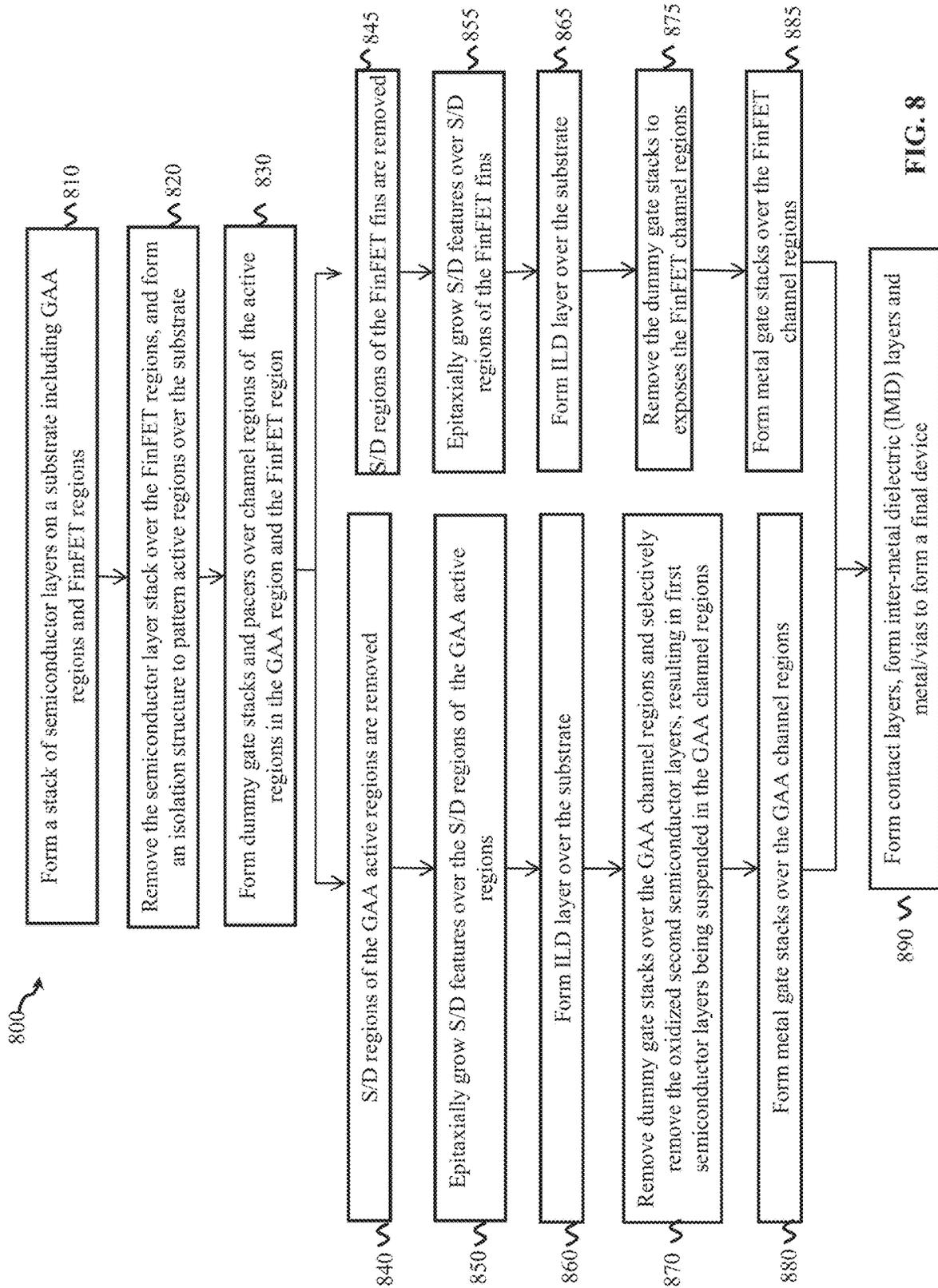


FIG. 8

**MULTI-GATE DEVICE INTEGRATION WITH  
SEPARATED FIN-LIKE FIELD EFFECT  
TRANSISTOR CELLS AND  
GATE-ALL-AROUND TRANSISTOR CELLS**

This is a non-provisional application of and claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/737,613, filed Sep. 27, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

The present disclosure is generally related to integrated circuit, and more particularly, to multi-gate device integration for optimizing integrated circuit performance. As integrated circuit (IC) technologies progress towards smaller technology nodes, multi-gate devices have been introduced to improve gate control by increasing gate-channel coupling, reducing off-state current, and reducing short-channel effects (SCEs). A multi-gate device generally refers to a device having a gate structure, or portion thereof, disposed over more than one side of a channel region. Fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) and gate-all-around (GAA) transistors (both also referred to as non-planar transistors) are examples of multi-gate devices that have become popular and promising candidates for high performance and low leakage applications. A FinFET has an elevated channel wrapped by a gate on more than one side (for example, the gate wraps a top and sidewalls of a “fin” of semiconductor material extending from a substrate). Compared to planar transistors, such configuration provides better control of the channel and drastically reduces SCEs (in particular, by reducing sub-threshold leakage (i.e., coupling between a source and a drain of the FinFET in the “off” state)). A GAA transistor (for example, a Nanosheet transistor or a Nanowire transistor) has a gate structure that can extend, partially or fully, around a channel region to provide access to the channel region on two or more sides. The channel region of the GAA transistor may be formed from Nanowires, Nanosheets, other nanostructures, and/or other suitable structures. However, integration of different multi-gate devices (including FinFETs, Nanowire and/or Nanosheet transistors) on one integrated circuit is challenging and complex. Lots of factors need to be considered to achieve a better performance of the integrated circuit with different kind of multi-gate devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present disclosure is best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying figures. It is emphasized that, in accordance with the standard practice in the industry, various features are not drawn to scale and are used for illustration purposes only. In fact, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily increased or reduced for clarity of discussion.

FIG. 1 is a schematic figure of a semiconductor device comprising different types of multi-gate transistors, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a simplified schematic top view of a first layout option of a semiconductor device including multi-gate devices, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 is a simplified schematic top view of a second layout option of a semiconductor device including multi-gate devices, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 4 is a simplified schematic top view of a third layout option of a semiconductor device including multi-gate devices according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 5A-5D are simplified schematic figures of a cell including a plurality of GAA devices according to one layout option, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 6A-6C are simplified schematic figures of another cell including a plurality of GAA devices according to another layout option, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7A-7D are simplified schematic figures of a cell including a plurality of FinFET devices that may be formed in a core area or an I/O area of a semiconductor device, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart of a method forming a semiconductor device, according to various aspects of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure relates generally to integrated circuit (IC) devices, and more particularly, to multi-gate device integration for IC devices.

The following disclosure provides many different implementations, or examples, for implementing different features of the invention. Specific examples of components and arrangements are described below to simplify the present disclosure. These are, of course, merely examples and are not intended to be limiting. For example, the formation of a first feature over or on a second feature in the description that follows may include implementations in which the first and second features are formed in direct contact, and may also include implementations in which additional features may be formed between the first and second features, such that the first and second features may not be in direct contact.

In addition, the present disclosure may repeat reference numerals and/or letters in the various examples. This repetition is for the purpose of simplicity and clarity and does not in itself dictate a relationship between the various implementations and/or configurations discussed. Moreover, the formation of a feature on, connected to, and/or coupled to another feature in the present disclosure that follows may include implementations in which the features are formed in direct contact, and may also include implementations in which additional features may be formed interposing the features, such that the features may not be in direct contact. In addition, spatially relative terms, for example, “lower,” “upper,” “horizontal,” “vertical,” “above,” “over,” “below,” “beneath,” “up,” “down,” “top,” “bottom,” etc. as well as derivatives thereof (e.g., “horizontally,” “downwardly,” “upwardly,” etc.) are used for ease of the present disclosure of one features relationship to another feature. The spatially relative terms are intended to cover different orientations of the device including the features.

For advanced IC technology nodes, FinFET (also referred to as non-planar transistors) has become a popular and promising candidate for high performance and low leakage applications. This is due to additional sidewalls device width (Ion performance) as well as better short channel control (subthreshold leakage) of the FinFET. However, FinFET devices have fin bottom portion out of gate control issue, which limits the continue shrunk capability of the device. Thus, GAA devices are proposed as advantageous since GAA devices allow more aggressive gate length scaling for both performance and density improvement. GAA devices

can be nanowire or nanosheet devices that can exhibit extremely narrow cylindrical or sheet channel body. GAA can also have better gate control ability, lower leakage current, and shrink capability in comparison with some FinFET devices. Nanowire devices have smaller channel regions and can serve for non-speed critical circuit to have both lower leakage and power consumption (both active and standby) advantages. Nanosheet devices have wider channel width which may be beneficial for high speed circuits. A design providing a mixture of both devices, nanowire and nanosheet, in one chip can provide design flexibility for speed and power optimization. In addition, using long channel devices in a design, such as FinFET devices, can help with the process margin improvement for the device.

However, challenges can arise in fabricating various types of devices (e.g., GAA nanosheet and nanowire devices as well as FinFETs, in a single semiconductor device (e.g., integrated circuit) on a single substrate. For example, the dimensional differences create processing challenges integrating the device types. As but one example, in some embodiments, in processes directed to oxidation of a feature due to the increased dimensions of elements to form the wider-channel Nanosheet devices, an oxidation process sufficient to perform the oxidation of the Nanowire device but may be insufficient for forming Nanosheet devices or conversely providing sufficient oxidation in forming a Nanosheet device may lead to an over oxidation issue for Nanowire devices. Some embodiments of the proposed multi-gate devices and methods of fabricating these devices in this disclosure provides an IC device layout that can combine the advantages of different transistors, including Nanowire transistors, Nanosheet transistors and FinFETs, as well as mitigating the manufacturing issues that mentioned above. Different implementations may have different advantages, and no particular advantage is necessarily required of any implementation.

FIG. 1 is a schematic figure of an integrated circuit (IC) 100, in portion or entirety, according to various aspects of the present disclosure. The IC 100 may include a plurality of multi-gate devices or transistors, a multi-gate device generally refers to any transistor where the gate controls more than one surface of the channel such as, a FinFET or GAA based device. The IC 100 may be a chip providing functionality for a microprocessor, a memory cell, and/or other IC device. In some embodiments, the IC 100 is a portion of an IC chip, a system on chip (SoC), or portion thereof, that includes various passive and active microelectronic devices, such as resistors, capacitors, inductors, diodes, P-type field effect transistors (PFETs), N-type field effect transistors (NFETs), metal-oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (MOSFETs), complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) transistors, bipolar junction transistors (BJTs), laterally diffused MOS (LDMOS) transistors, high voltage transistors, high frequency transistors, other suitable components, or combinations thereof.

The IC 100 comprises a core area 101 and an Input/Output (I/O) area 105. The core area 101 and the I/O area 105 may be areas of a device formed on a single semiconductor substrate. Core area 101 comprises three kinds of group of circuit, i.e. first group circuit 110 (e.g., cell) including one or more Nanosheet transistors (also referred to as a Nanosheet cell), second group circuit 120 (e.g., cell) including one or more Nanowire transistors (also referred to as a Nanowire cell), and third group circuit 130 (e.g., cell) including one or more FinFETs (also referred to as a FinFET cell). These circuits or cells are exemplary only and the device 100 may include any number of cells.

In an embodiment, all transistors of the first group circuit 110 are Nanosheet transistors, and all transistors of second group circuit 120 are Nanowire transistors. In the depicted embodiments, the first group circuit 110 and the second group circuit 120 are disposed adjacently and formed in a GAA region 106 in the core area 101. In some embodiments, the first group circuit 110 and the second group circuit 120 may be disposed mixed in different rows and columns of a layout (for example, FIG. 2). In some other embodiments, the first group circuit 110 and the second group circuit 120 may be arranged in different rows and/or columns, respectively (for example, FIG. 3). In yet some other embodiments, one of the group circuit 110 or 120 is arranged in one row (i.e. not including the other group circuit), and mixed group circuits 110 and 120 are arranged in a next row. In an embodiment, the first group circuit 110 and the second group circuit 120 may be swapped, for example, the first group circuit 110 (e.g., NS cell) may be nearer the third group circuit and interposing the second group circuit 120 and the third group circuit. Different layout options of the first group circuit 110 and the second group circuit 120 are discussed in the following figures, for example, FIGS. 2-4 and FIGS. 5A-6C. In the depicted embodiments, all transistors of the third group circuit 130 are FinFETs. The third group circuit 130 including FinFETs is located in a FinFET region 107 in the core area 101 and is separate from the first group circuit 110 including Nanosheet transistors and the second group circuit 120 including Nanowire transistor. Exemplary embodiment of the third group circuit 130 is provided in FIGS. 7A-7D.

In some embodiments, a distance D between the closest boundaries of the FinFET region 107 (including the third group FinFET circuit 130) and the GAA region 106 (including the first group Nanosheet circuit 110 and second group Nanowire circuit 120) is at least four (4) times of the contact poly pitch (CPP, i.e. gate pitch), at least four (4) times of the channel pitch distance, or at least four times of both. Here, the gate pitch is the gate pitch of the GAA transistors included in the first or second group circuit 110 or 120 and the channel pitch is the channel pitch of the GAA transistors included in the first or second group circuit 110 or 120. An example gate pitch and an example channel pitch are illustrated in FIG. 5A as the edge-to-edge distance between two adjacent gates and the edge-to-edge distance between two adjacent channels, respectively. The gate pitch and the channel pitch can be defined using center-to-center distance instead of edge-to-edge distance in some embodiments. In some embodiments, in the region of distance D, it may be fully empty without any semiconductor features. In some embodiments, isolation structures including features such as dummy gate structures and/or dummy gate contacts, may be formed between the GAA region 106 and the FinFET region 107 (in the region of distance D) for gate patterning uniformity, loading effect improvement, and/or following inter-layer dielectric (ILD) and chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) topography. Here, the dummy gate structures or the dummy gate contacts generally refer to electrically non-functional structures that only formed in place for process uniformity or active regions isolation. Thus, in some embodiments, in the region of distance D there are no functional or operational semiconductor devices (e.g., there are no functional gate structures).

The I/O area 105 of the IC 100 comprises a fourth group circuit 140 including one or more FinFETs. In an embodiment, all transistors of the fourth group circuit 140 are FinFETs. In an embodiment, one of the differences between the FinFETs in the fourth group circuit 140 in the I/O area

**105** and the FinFETs in the third group circuit **130** in the core area **101** is that a thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFETs in the fourth group circuit **140** in the I/O area **105** is larger than that of the third group circuit **130** in the core area **101**. In a further embodiment, the gate dielectric layer thickness of the FinFETs in the third group circuit **130** is substantially the same as that of the GAA transistors in the first group circuit **110** and/or the second group circuit **120** in the core area **101**. In some embodiments, a thickness of the gate dielectric layer of transistors in the first, second and third group circuits **110-130** in the core area **101** is less than about 3 nanometers (nm); a thickness of the gate dielectric of transistors of the fourth group circuit **140** in the I/O area **105** is more than about 4 nm. Various processing is contemplated for achieving the different gate dielectric thicknesses.

Long channel devices (FinFETs) and short channel devices (GAA transistors) may have different gate lengths in the x-direction between the source/drain regions, for example, the gate length GL in the x-direction as depicted in FIGS. **5A** and **6A** for GAA transistors, or the gate length GL in the x-direction as depicted in FIG. **7A** for FinFET.) In some embodiments, a gate length of FinFETs in the third group circuit **130** and FinFETs in the fourth group circuit **140** is greater than a gate length of Nanosheet transistors in the first group circuit **110** and/or is greater than a gate length of Nanowire transistors in the second group circuit **120**. For example, a gate length of Nanosheet transistors or Nanowire transistors of circuits **110** and **120** is less than 20 nm, a gate length of the FinFETs of circuits **130** is larger than 30 nm. Accordingly, a gate length ratio of FinFETs to Nanosheet or Nanowire transistors is greater than about 1.5.

FIGS. **2-4** are simplified schematic top view of different layout options for the core area **101** of the IC **100** of FIG. **1** including embodiments of the first group circuit **110** (Nanosheet cell) and the second group circuit **120** (Nanowire cell) in the IC **100**. FIGS. **2-4** provide example layouts that may be applied to the core area **101** of the IC **100** of FIG. **1**. In an embodiment, FIGS. **2-4** illustrate exemplary embodiments of a first group circuit **110** and abutting second group circuit **120** where a distance D is defined from an edge of one of the cells of FIGS. **2-4** as illustrated in FIG. **1**.

FIG. **2** is a simplified schematic top view of a first layout option **200** (for example, in an x-y plane) of Nanosheet cells (labeled NS) and Nanowire cells (labeled NW) (both referred to as GAA cells) formed in the GAA region **106** in the core area **101** of the IC **100**. As discussed above, the GAA region **106** is separated from the FinFET region **107** for a distance D. Layout **200** comprises a plurality of GAA cells (first or second group circuits) **260**. Each GAA cell **260** comprises one or more transistors that provide at least one circuit element. The GAA cells **260** may provide an example of the respective one of circuits **110** (NS) and/or **120** (NW) of FIG. **1**. Exemplary circuit elements include an inverter, a NAND gate, a NOR gate, an AND gate, an OR gate, a NOT gate, an XOR gate, an XNOR gate, a Flip-Flop, a latch, or combinations thereof. Each GAA cell **260** may be a Nanosheet cell comprising one or more Nanosheet transistors or a Nanowire cell comprising one or more Nanowire transistors. In the depicted layout **200**, Nanosheet cells (NS) and Nanowire cells (NW) are arranged in a row direction (x-direction) as well as in a column direction (y-direction) according to the design requirement of the IC **100**, so that GAA cells **260** can be interconnected to form various circuits and functions performed by IC **100**. In the depicted embodiment, at least one Nanosheet cell and at least one Nanowire cell are disposed adjacent to each other in the row

direction, and at least a portion of a Nanosheet cell is abutted with at least a portion of a Nanowire cell in a column direction. Note that the number of GAA cells **260** (including Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells) are not limited to those illustrated, and may extend or reduce in row and/or column directions. In the depicted embodiment, each GAA cell **260** is named by their row number and column number. For example, Cell **1-1** is the cell located in the first row and the first column; Cell **2-3** is the cell located in the second row and the third column; and so on. As depicted in FIG. **2**, Cell **1-1** is a Nanosheet cell (illustrated as "NS"); Cell **1-2** is a Nanowire cell (illustrated as "NW"); Cell **1-3** is another Nanosheet cell (illustrated as "NS"); and so on. In each row of GAA cells **260**, an isolation structure **270**, for example a dielectric dummy gate structure, may be located between the different types of cells, i.e. between a Nanosheet cell and a Nanowire cell that adjacent next to each other. In the depicted embodiment, an isolation structure **270** is located between Nanosheet Cell **1-1** and Nanowire Cell **1-2**; another isolation structure **270** is located between Nanosheet Cell **1-3** and Nanosheet Cell **1-4**. Other isolation structures may be located between other adjacent cells, regardless if the adjacent cells are of the same type or different types to isolate the adjacent cells from each other. The isolation structures between cells in an array of cells may be the same or different. Exemplary isolation structures (for example, dummy gate structures **530D**) are described below with reference to FIGS. **5A-5D**. Among columns along the y-direction, GAA cells **260** are abutted together. A dielectric structure disposed at the gate end (i.e. gate end dielectric structure) may be used to isolate gate structures in GAA cells adjacent in different columns. Exemplary gate end dielectric structures (for example, gate end dielectric structures **540**) are described below with reference to FIGS. **5A-5D**. In the depicted embodiment of FIG. **2**, each row of GAA cells **260** in layout **200** has a same height H1 along the y-direction.

In some embodiments, as depicted in FIG. **2**, layout **200** comprises P-type doped regions (referred to as P-type wells) **210**, **230** and **250** and N-type doped regions (referred to as N-type wells) **220** and **240**. Each of these doped regions extend across different rows of GAA cells **260**, thus providing a region for each type of transistor (n-type or p-type) within the given cell. In the depicted embodiment, N-doped region **220** extend across row **1** and row **2** of the GAA cells **260**; P-doped region **230** extend across row **2** and row **3** of GAA cells **260**; N-doped region **240** across row **3** and row **4** of GAA cells **260**, and so on. In some embodiments, P-type doped regions **210**, **230**, and **250** are doped with P-type dopants, such as boron (for example, BF<sub>2</sub>), indium, other P-type dopant, or combinations thereof. N-type doped regions **220** and **240** are doped with N-type dopants, such as phosphorus, arsenic, other N-type dopant, or combinations thereof. An ion implantation process, a diffusion process, and/or other suitable doping process can be performed to form the various doped regions.

As depicted in FIG. **2**, layout **200** may also comprises some filler cells **280** including Nanosheet or Nanowire transistors to fill up the gap between adjacent GAA cells **260** according to the design requirement of the IC **100**. In some embodiments, filler cells **280** may provide at least one circuit element. In some other embodiments, filler cells **280** may only be dummy features and do not provide any circuit element function.

FIG. **3** is a simplified schematic top view of a second layout option **300** (for example, in an x-y plane) of Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells (both referred to as GAA cells) formed in the GAA region **106** in the core area **101** of

the IC 100. As discussed above, the GAA region 106 is separated from the FinFET region 107 for a distance D. Layout 300 comprises a plurality of GAA cells (first or second group circuits) 360. Note that the number of GAA cells 360 are not limited to those illustrated and may extend or reduce in row and/or column directions. Each GAA cell 360 comprises one or more transistors that provide at least one circuit element. Exemplary circuit elements include an inverter, a NAND gate, a NOR gate, an AND gate, an OR gate, a NOT gate, an XOR gate, an XNOR gate, a Flip-Flop, a latch, or combinations thereof. Each of GAA cells 360 may be a Nanosheet cell comprising one or more Nanosheet transistors or a Nanowire cell comprising one or more Nanowire transistors. In layout 300, Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells are respectively arranged in different rows along the x-direction, and are vertically abutted together in the y-direction. In the depicted layout 300, in the first and third rows, all GAA cells are Nanosheet cells (corresponding to the first group circuit 110, illustrated as "NS"); in the second and fourth rows, all GAA cells are Nanowire cells (corresponding to the second group circuit 120, illustrated as "NW"). In this second layout option 300, an isolation structure 370 is formed between adjacent cells to isolate them from each other. A gate end spacer may be disposed to isolate gate structures of GAA transistors in GAA cells 360 abutted in the column direction. In some embodiments, the height of different rows of the GAA cells 360 may be different. In some other embodiments, the height of different rows of the GAA cells 360 may be the same. As depicted in FIG. 3, a height of the first and third rows including Nanosheet cells is H1 and a height of the second and fourth rows including Nanowire cells is H2. In some embodiments, the height H1 of the Nanosheet cells is greater than the height H2 of the Nanowire cells. In an embodiment, the width of a channel of a transistor comprised in the cells is oriented in the y-direction. As discussed above, the width of the channel of a Nanosheet transistor may be greater than the width of a channel of a Nanowire transistor. Thus, H1 may be greater than H2 to accommodate a width (e.g., along the y-direction) of the channel region of the Nanosheet transistors as it is greater than a width (along the y-direction) of the channel region of the Nanowire transistors (see, e.g., FIGS. 6A-6C and the illustrations of width W1 and the width W2). In some embodiments, the channel width of the nanosheet transistor is at least about 1.3 to 10 times of the channel width of the nanowire transistor. In some further embodiments, the channel width of the nanosheet transistor is about 1.4 to 5 times of the channel width of the nanowire transistor. For example, channel width of the Nanosheet transistors is about 12 nm to 40 nm and channel width of the Nanowire transistors is about 4 nm to 11 nm. Accordingly, the height H1 of Nanosheet cells is greater than the height H2 of Nanowire cells. However, in some other embodiments, H1 may be substantially equal to H2 or H1 may be less than H2 by adjusting size of other features (for example, gate dielectric layer or gate electrodes) of the cells 360, depending on the design requirements of the IC 100.

In some embodiments, layout 300 comprises P-type doped regions (referred to as P-type wells) 310, 330 and 350 and N-type doped regions (referred to as N-type wells) 320 and 340 across different rows of GAA cells 360. The components and manufacturing process of P-type doped regions 310, 330 and 350 and N-type doped regions 320 and 340 are similar to those of P-type doped regions 210, 230, 250, N-type doped regions 220 and 240 in layout 200, and thus are not repeated here.

Similar as layout 200, layout 300 may also comprise some filler cells 380 including Nanosheet or Nanowire transistors to fill up the gap between adjacent GAA cells 360 according to the design requirement of the IC 100. In some embodiments, filler cells 380 may provide at least one circuit element. In some other embodiments, filler cells 380 may only be placeholders and do not provide any circuit element function.

FIG. 4 is a simplified schematic top view of a third layout option 400 (for example, in an x-y plane) of Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells (both referred to as GAA cells) formed in the GAA region 106 in the core area 101 of the IC 100. As discussed above, the GAA region 106 is separated from the FinFET region 107 for a distance D. Layout 400 comprises a plurality of GAA cells 460. Note that the number of GAA cells 460 are not limited to those illustrated and may extend or reduce in row and/or column directions. Each GAA cell 460 comprises one or more transistors that provide at least one circuit element. Exemplary circuit elements include an inverter, a NAND gate, a NOR gate, an AND gate, an OR gate, a NOT gate, an XOR gate, an XNOR gate, a Flip-Flop, a latch, or combinations thereof. Each of GAA cells 460 may be a Nanosheet cell comprising one or more Nanosheet transistors or a Nanowire cell comprising one or more Nanowire transistors. In the depicted third layout 400, Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells are arranged in one row, and in a next (upper or lower) row, only one type of GAA cells 360, either Nanosheet cells or Nanosheet cells, are arranged. For example, as depicted in FIG. 4, Nanosheet cells and Nanowire cells are arranged in the first and third rows of layout 400. However, in the second and fourth rows, only Nanowire cells are arranged. In some other embodiments, the second row may only comprise one type of cells (for example, Nanowire cells) and the fourth row may only comprise another type of cells (for example, Nanosheet cells) (not illustrated). In the depicted third layout 400, an isolation structure 470, for example a dummy gate structure, is disposed between adjacent GAA cells 460 to separate and/or isolate the adjacent cells from each other. As discussed in FIG. 4, a height of each row of GAA cells 460 may be same or different depending on the design requirement of IC 100.

In some embodiments, layout 400 comprises P-type doped regions (referred to as P-type wells) 410, 430 and 450 and N-type doped regions (referred to as N-type wells) 420 and 440 across different rows of GAA cells 460. The components and manufacturing process of P-type doped regions 410, 430 and 450 and N-type doped regions 420 and 440 are similar to those of P-type doped regions and N-type doped regions in layout 200 and 300, and thus are not repeated here.

Similar to layouts 200 and 300, layout 400 may also comprises filler cells 480 including Nanosheet or Nanowire transistors to fill up the gap between adjacent GAA cells 460 according to the design requirement of the IC 100. In some embodiments, filler cells 480 may provide at least one circuit element. In some other embodiments, filler cells may only be dummy elements and do not provide any circuit element function.

FIGS. 5A-5D are simplified schematic figures of a device 500 comprising one or more circuit or cells including a Nanosheet cell 501 and a Nanowire cell 502. In the illustrated embodiment, the circuit 500 includes the Nanosheet cell 501 and the Nanowire cell 502 adjacent to each other such as illustrated by adjacent NS and NW cells in one row according to layout 200 or layout 400 shown in FIG. 2 or FIG. 4, respectively. For example, Nanosheet cell 501 may

be an embodiment of a NS cell **1-1** and Nanowire cell **502** may be an embodiment of a NW cell **1-2** of layout **200** in FIG. **2**; or, Nanosheet cell **501** may be an embodiment of NS cell **3-1** and Nanowire cell **502** may be an embodiment of NW cell **3-2** of layout **400** in FIG. **4**. Device **500** may be located in a core area **101** of the IC **100** in FIG. **1**. Different types of GAA cells may be referred to as different group circuit as shown in FIG. **1**. For example, Nanosheet cell **501** may be an example of the first group Nanosheet circuit **110** and Nanowire cell **502** may be an example of the second group Nanowire circuit **120**.

FIG. **5A** is a simplified schematic top view of the device **500** (in an x-y plane); FIG. **5B** is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **500** along line **5B-5B** of FIG. **5A** (in a y-z plane); FIG. **5C** is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **500** along line **5C-5C** of FIG. **5A** (in a y-z plane); and FIG. **5D** is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **500** along line **5D-5D** of FIG. **5A** (in an x-z plane). FIGS. **5A-5D** have been simplified for the sake of clarity to better understand the inventive concepts of the present disclosure. Additional features can be added in device **500**, and some of the features described below can be replaced, modified, or eliminated in other embodiments of device **500**.

Device **500** comprises a substrate (wafer) **505**. In the depicted embodiment, substrate **505** includes silicon. Alternatively or additionally, substrate **505** includes another elementary semiconductor, such as germanium; a compound semiconductor, such as silicon carbide, silicon phosphide, gallium arsenide, gallium phosphide, indium phosphide, indium arsenide, and/or indium antimonide; an alloy semiconductor, such as SiGe, SiPC, GaAsP, AllnAs, AlGaAs, GaInAs, GaInP, and/or GaInAsP; or combinations thereof. Alternatively, substrate **505** is a semiconductor-on-insulator substrate, such as a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrate, a silicon germanium-on-insulator (SGOI) substrate, or a germanium-on-insulator (GOI) substrate. Further, the substrate **505** may optionally include an epitaxial layer, may be strained for performance enhancement, and/or have other suitable enhancement features.

Substrate **505** includes various doped regions configured according to design requirements of device **500**. In some embodiments, substrate **505** includes P-type doped regions (for example, P-type wells **503**) doped with P-type dopants, such as boron (for example, BF<sub>2</sub>), indium, other P-type dopant, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, substrate **505** includes N-type doped regions (for example, N-type wells **504**) doped with N-type dopants, such as phosphorus, arsenic, other N-type dopant, or combinations thereof. The various doped regions can be formed directly on and/or in substrate **505**, for example, providing a P-well structure, an N-well structure, a dual-well structure, a raised structure, or combinations thereof.

In the depicted embodiment, substrate **505** includes a P-type doped region **503** (also referred to as a P-well) configured for two N-type Nanosheet transistors **510SN** and a N-type Nanowire transistor **510WN**, and a N-type doped region **504** (also referred to as an N-well) configured for two P-type Nanosheet transistors **510SP** and a P-type Nanowire transistors **510WP**. As depicted in FIG. **5A**, substrate **505** includes two GAA cells, i.e. a Nanosheet cell **501** and a Nanowire cell **502**. P-type Nanosheet transistors **510SP** and N-type Nanosheet transistors **510SN** are located in the Nanosheet cell **501**, and P-type Nanowire transistor **510WP** and N-type Nanowire transistor **510WN** are located in the Nanowire cell **502**. Each of the GAA cells **501** and **502** provides at least one circuit element. For example, in the depicted embodiment, Nanosheet cell **501** works as a

NAND circuit and Nanowire cell **502** works as an inverter. The P-type doped region **503** may be substantially similar to the P-type doped regions discussed above (for example, **210**, **230**, **250**, **410**, **430**, **450**) in FIGS. **2** and **4**, respectively. The N-type doped region **504** may be substantially similar to the N-type doped regions discussed above (for example, **220**, **240**, **420**, **440**) in FIGS. **2** and **4**, respectively. Nanosheet cell **501** and Nanowire cell **502** may be referred to as the adjacent Nanosheet and Nanowire cells (for example, cells **1-1** and **1-2**, or cells **3-1** and **3-2**, etc.) in FIGS. **2** and **4**, respectively.

Device **500** also comprises an isolation feature **575** (e.g., a shallow trench isolation (STI) feature) formed over and/or in substrate **505** to isolate various regions of GAA device **500**. For example, isolation feature **575** (see FIG. **5D**) separates and isolates active device regions and/or passive device regions from each other, such as P-type Nanosheet transistors **510SP**, N-type Nanosheet transistors **510SN**, P-type Nanowire transistor **510WP**, and N-type Nanowire transistor **510WN**. Isolation feature **575** further separates and isolates active regions **535** (including **535SN**, **535SP**, **535WN**, and **535WP**) from one another. Isolation feature **575** includes silicon oxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), silicon nitride (SiN), silicon oxynitride (SiON), other suitable isolation material (for example, including silicon, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, or other suitable isolation constituent), or combinations thereof.

In FIGS. **5A-5D**, Nanosheet cell **501** comprises N-type Nanosheet transistors **510SN** including active region **535SN** and P-type Nanosheet transistors **510SP** including active region **535SP**. Nanowire cell **502** comprises N-type Nanowire transistor **510WN** including active region **535WN** and P-type Nanowire transistor **510WP** including active region **535WP**. Active regions **535SN**, **535SP**, **535WN** and **535WP** (all together refers to active regions **535**) are oriented substantially parallel to one another, each having a length defined in an x-direction, a width defined in a y-direction, and a thickness defined in a z-direction.

Each of the active regions **535SN**, **535SP**, **535WN** and **535WP** includes at least one channel region (covered by gate structures **530S** or **530W**), at least one source region, and at least one drain region defined along their length in the x-direction, where a channel region is disposed between a source region and a drain region (generally referred to as source/drain regions). In the depicted embodiment, each channel region of the active regions **535** comprises a stack of channel semiconductor layers **515S** or **515W**. As depicted in FIGS. **5B** and **5C**, channel semiconductor layers **515** (for example, **515S** and **515W**) are stacked vertically (in the z-direction) forming the channel regions of the GAA transistors (for example, **510SN**, **510SP**, **510WN** and **510WP**), respectively. In some embodiments, the number of the channel semiconductor layers **515S** of the Nanosheet transistors **510SN/510SP** in FIG. **5B** equals to the number of the channel semiconductor layers of the Nanowire transistors **510WN/510WP** in FIG. **5C**. In some embodiments, 2 to 10 layers of the channel semiconductor layers **515** may be vertically stacked forming the channel regions of the GAA transistors **510**. In some embodiments, a thickness in the z-direction of all the channel semiconductor layer **515** are the same. In some other embodiments, a thickness of each semiconductor layer may not be the same. For example, in the depicted embodiment, the thickness T1 of the channel semiconductor layers **515S** of the Nanosheet gate structures **530S** is about 3 nm to about 8 nm; and the thickness T2 of the channel semiconductor layers **515W** of the Nanowire gate structures **530W** is also about 3 nm to about 8 nm,

which is substantially equal to T1. Furthermore, due to the different channel lengths (the width of active regions) of Nanosheet transistors and Nanowire transistors, a width in the y-direction of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layer is larger than a width of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layer. For example, in the depicted embodiment, the width W1 of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers 515S (i.e. channel width W1 of Nanosheet transistors 510SN/510SP) is about 12 nm to about 40 nm; and the width W2 of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layers 515W (i.e. channel width W2 of Nanowire transistors 510WN/510WP) is about 4 nm to about 11 nm. In some embodiments, a ratio of the channel width W1 of Nanosheet transistors to the channel width W2 of the Nanowire transistors is about 1.3 to about 10. In some further embodiments, the Nanosheet channel width W1 is at least 1.5 to 4 times of the Nanowire channel width W2. The channel semiconductor layers 515 may include any suitable semiconductor materials, such as silicon (Si). In various embodiments, the semiconductor materials may include other materials such as silicon germanium (SiGe), germanium, a compound semiconductor such as silicon carbide, gallium arsenide, gallium phosphide, indium phosphide, indium arsenide and/or indium antimonite, an alloy semiconductor such as GaAsP, AlInAs, AlGaAs, InGaAs, GaInP, and/or GaInAsP, or combinations thereof. The channel semiconductor layers 515 may be doped or undoped depending on the design requirement of GAA device 500.

Gate structures are disposed over the channel regions of GAA transistors 510, such as Nanosheet gate structures 530S of Nanosheet transistors 510SN, 510SP, and Nanowire gate structures 530W of Nanowire transistors 510WN, 510WP. FIG. 5B depicts the cross-section views of the Nanosheet gate structure 530S along line 5B-5B in FIG. 5A. FIG. 5C depicts the cross-section views of the Nanowire gate structure 530W along line 5C-5C in FIG. 5A. In some embodiments, dummy gate structures 530D (referred to as the isolation structure 270 or 470 in the layout 200 or 400 in FIG. 2 or 4, respectively) are disposed between Nanosheet cell 501 and Nanowire cell 502 to separate the different types of GAA cells adjacent to each other. Gate structures 530S, 530W and 530D are all referred to as gate structures 530. As shown in FIG. 5A, gate structures 530 are arranged substantially parallel to one another, and each has a length defined in an x-direction, a width defined in a y-direction, and a thickness defined in a z-direction.

Nanosheet gate structures 530S and Nanowire gate structure 530W engage respective channel regions of Nanosheet transistors 510SN, 510SP and Nanowire transistors 510WN, 510WP, such that current can flow between respective source/drain regions of Nanosheet and Nanowire transistors during operation. As depicted in FIGS. 5A-5C, since Nanosheet cell 501 and Nanowire cell 502 are arranged in one row (along x-axis), a length of Nanosheet gate structures 530S substantially equals to a length of Nanowire gate structure 530W and further equals to a length of dummy gate structure 530D. As depicted in FIG. 5A, the gate length GL in the x-direction of each of gate structures 530 (including 530S and 530W) may be equal to or less than about 20 nm.

In the depicted embodiment, each of the Nanosheet cell 501 and Nanowire cell 502 comprises two gate structures extending in the y-direction, and the width of the gate structures (including Nanosheet gate structures 530S and Nanowire gate structures 530W) in the y-direction between gate end dielectric structure 540 are substantially the same, thus the height (in the y-direction) of the Nanosheet cell 501 and Nanowire cell 502 are substantially the same. For

example, referring to FIG. 5A, Nanosheet cell 501 comprises P-type Nanosheet transistors 510SP and N-type Nanosheet transistors 510SN in the y-direction. And, Nanowire cell 502 comprises P-type Nanowire transistors 510WP and N-type Nanowire transistors 510WN in the y-direction. Accordingly, as depicted in FIG. 5B, the height of Nanosheet cell 501 is substantially equals to the height of Nanowire cell 502, and both equal to H1. Thus, Nanosheet cell 501 and Nanowire cell 502 can be integrated adjacently in one row and isolated by the dummy gate structures 530D according to the layouts 200 or 400 as depicted in FIG. 2 or 4.

As illustrated in FIGS. 5B and 5C, each of the gate structures 530S and 530W comprises a gate stack including a gate dielectric 590 and a gate electrode 585. A hard mask 580 is disposed over the gate electrode 585.

Gate dielectric 590 is conformally disposed around the vertically stacked channel semiconductor layers 515S and 515W, respectively, and interpose the channel semiconductor layers 515S, 515W and the gate electrodes 585. In the depicted embodiment, gate dielectric 590 is also disposed over a channel region in the substrate 505 and below the gate electrode 585. In some embodiments, gate dielectric 590 has a substantially uniform thickness along all the directions. For example, gate dielectric 590 may have a thickness of about 3 nm or less in all directions. In some embodiments, gate dielectric 590 includes a dielectric material, such as silicon oxide, high-k ( $k \geq 5$ ) dielectric material, other suitable dielectric material, or combinations thereof.

Gate electrode 585 is disposed on gate dielectric 590, and further around the channel semiconductor layers 515S or 515W. Gate electrode 585 includes electrically conductive materials. In some embodiments, gate electrode 585 includes multiple layers, such as a capping layer, a work function layer, a glue/barrier layer, and a metal fill (or bulk) layer. The capping layer can include a material that prevents or eliminates diffusion and/or reaction of constituents between gate dielectric 590 and other layers of gate structures 530S or 530W (in particular, gate layers including metal). In some embodiments, the capping layer includes a metal and nitrogen, such as titanium nitride (TiN), tantalum nitride (TaN), tungsten nitride (W2N), titanium silicon nitride (TiSiN), tantalum silicon nitride (TaSiN), or combinations thereof. The work function layer can include a conductive material tuned to have a desired work function (such as an N-type work function or a P-type work function). Work function materials include TiN, TaN, TiAl, TiAlN, TaAl, TaAlN, TaAlC, TaCN, Al, W, Cu, Co, Ni, Pt, or any combination thereof. The glue/barrier layer can include a material that promotes adhesion between adjacent layers, such as the work function layer and the metal fill layer, and/or a material that blocks and/or reduces diffusion between gate layers, such as the work function layer and the metal fill layer. For example, the glue/barrier layer includes metal (for example, W, Al, Ta, Ti, Ni, Cu, Co, other suitable metal, or combinations thereof), metal oxides, metal nitrides (for example, TiN), or combinations thereof. The metal fill layer can include a suitable conductive material, such as Al, W, and/or Cu.

Hard mask 580 is disposed over the gate electrode 585 and may include any suitable material, such as silicon and nitrogen (for example, silicon nitride).

As illustrated by FIGS. 5A and 5D, the dummy isolation gate structures 530D are arranged as isolation structures between Nanosheet cell 501 and the adjacent Nanowire cell 502. For example, as depicted in FIG. 5A, a dummy isolation gate structure 530D configured as a single gate OD

break isolation is formed between the Nanosheet cell **501** and the Nanowire cell **502**. The dummy isolation gate structures **530D** may be a single dielectric layer or multiple dielectric layers selected from silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), silicon oxycarbide (SiOC), silicon nitride (SiN), silicon carbon nitride (SiCN), silicon oxynitride (SiON), silicon oxycarbonitride (SiOCN), carbon content oxide, nitrogen content oxide, carbon and nitrogen content oxide, metal oxide dielectric, hafnium oxide (HfO<sub>2</sub>), tantalum oxide (Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>), zirconium oxide (ZrO<sub>2</sub>), aluminum oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), yttrium oxide (Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), multiple metal content oxide, or any combination thereof.

Still referring to FIGS. **5A** and **5D**, gate structures **530S**, **530W**, and **530D** further include respective gate spacers **520** disposed adjacent to (for example, along sidewalls of) the respective gate stacks. Gate spacers **520** comprise a dielectric material. The dielectric material can be selected from silicon, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, low-k dielectric ( $k < 3.5$ ), other suitable material, or combinations thereof (for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or silicon carbide). Gate spacers **520** may include a single layer or a multilayer structure. In some embodiments, gate spacers **520** may have a thickness of few nanometers.

Including as illustrated in FIGS. **5A-5C**, along the y-direction, at each end of the gate structures **530**, a gate end dielectric structure **540** is formed to isolate the gate structures **530** of Nanosheet and/or Nanowire cells in different rows of cells in device **500**. In some embodiments, gate end dielectric structures **540** comprise dielectric material selected from silicon, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, low-k dielectric ( $k < 3.5$ ), other suitable material, or combinations thereof (for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or silicon carbide).

As illustrated in FIG. **5D**, epitaxial source/drain features **545S** are provided as source/drain regions of Nanosheet transistors **510SP** and **510SN**, and epitaxial source/drain features **545W** are provided as source/drain regions of Nanowire transistors **510WP** and **510WN**. Epitaxial source/drain features **545S** and **545W** both are referred to as epitaxial source/drain features **545**.

Epitaxial source/drain features **545** may comprise semiconductor materials such as silicon (Si), phosphorus (P), silicon phosphide (SiP), silicon carbide (SiC), germanium (Ge), silicon germanium (SiGe), one or more III-V materials, a compound semiconductor, or an alloy semiconductor. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **545** are doped with N-type dopants and/or P-type dopants. For example, epitaxial source/drain feature **545** may include SiGe doped with boron for forming source/drain features for a P-type FET. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain feature **545** may include silicon doped with phosphorus for forming source/drain features for a N-type FET. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **545** include materials and/or dopants that achieve desired tensile stress and/or compressive stress in the channel regions. In various embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **545** may comprise more than one epitaxial layers, and different epitaxial layers of epitaxial source/drain features **545** may comprise same or different semiconductor materials.

In some embodiments, device **500** comprises silicide layers **525** formed over the epitaxial source/drain features **545** over the source/drain regions. In some embodiments, the silicide layers **525** include nickel silicide, titanium silicide, or cobalt silicide. In some embodiments, the silicide layers **525** and epitaxial source/drain features **545** are collectively referred to as the epitaxial source/drain features of device **500**.

An inter-level dielectric (ILD) layer **595** is disposed over substrate **505**, especially over gate structures **530S**, **530W**, **530D**, source/drain features **545S**, **545W**, and isolation features **575**. ILD layer **595** includes a dielectric material, such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, TEOS formed oxide, phosphosilicate glass (PSG), borophosphosilicate glass (BPSG), low-k dielectric material, other suitable dielectric material, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, ILD layer **595** can include a multilayer structure having multiple dielectric materials.

Device-level source/drain contacts **550**, gate vias **560**, and source/drain vias **570** are disposed over the gate and source/drain regions extend through the ILD layer **595** to couple the transistor elements to overlying interconnect structures. Device-level contacts **550**, gate vias **560**, and source/drain vias **570** include any suitable electrically conductive material, such as Ta, Ti, Al, Cu, Co, W, TiN, TaN, other suitable conductive materials, or combinations thereof. Various conductive materials can be combined to provide device-level contacts **550**, gate vias **560**, and source/drain vias **570** with various layers, such as a barrier layer, an adhesion layer, a liner layer, a bulk layer, other suitable layer, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, device-level contacts **550** include Ti, TiN, and/or Co; gate vias **560** and source/drain vias **570** (referred to as vias **560**, **570**) include Ti, TiN, and/or W.

In some embodiments, ILD layer **595**, contacts **550**, vias **560**, **570** are a portion of and/or interconnects to a multilayer interconnect (MLI) feature disposed over substrate **505**. The MLI feature electrically couples various components of device **500**, such that the various components are operable to function as specified by design requirements of device **500**. The gate vias **560** and source/drain vias **570** may provide an interconnect to a first metallization layer (e.g., **M0**) of the MLI.

Turning now to the embodiment of FIGS. **6A-6C**, illustrated are simplified schematic figures of a device **600** comprising different types of GAA cells, for example, Nanosheet cells **601**, **601'** and Nanowire cells **602**, **602'**, respectively arranged in different rows and are vertically abutted together. The circuit **600** may be an embodiment of a portion of the layout **300** illustrated in FIG. **3**. For example, Nanosheet cells **601** and **601'** may be an embodiment of NS cells **1-1** and **1-2**, and Nanowire cells **602** and **602'** may be an embodiment of NW cells **2-1** and **2-2** of layout **300** in FIG. **3**. As depicted in FIG. **6A**, Nanosheet cells **601** and **601'** are arranged in an upper row **608S** and Nanowire cells **602** and **602'** are arranged in a lower row **608W**. Device **600** may be located in a core area **101** of the IC **100** in FIG. **1**. In an embodiment, Nanosheet cells **601** and **601'** are illustrative of embodiments of the first group Nanosheet circuit **110** and Nanowire cells **602** and **602'** are illustrative of embodiment of the second group Nanowire circuit **120**.

FIG. **6A** is a simplified schematic top view of device **600** (for example, in an x-y plane); FIG. **6B** is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **600** along line **6B-6B** of FIG. **6A** (for example, in a y-z plane); and FIG. **6C** is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **600** along line **6C-6C** of FIG. **6A** (for example, in an x-z plane). FIGS. **6A-6C** have been simplified for the sake of clarity to better understand the inventive concepts of the present disclosure. Additional features can be added in device **600**, and some of the features described below can be replaced, modified, or eliminated in other embodiments of device **600**.

Materials of different features of device **600** are the same as the corresponding features of device **500**, thus will not be repeated in the following description.

In the depicted embodiment of FIG. 6A, device 600 comprises a substrate 605 having formed thereon two rows of GAA cells, i.e. an upper row 608S and a lower row 608W. In some embodiments, substrate 605 may be the same substrate as the substrate 505 of device 500. For example, each of device 600 and device 500 may be included in the core area 101 of the IC 100. Each row of GAA cells, 608S and 608W, comprises only one type of GAA transistors, for example, Nanosheet transistor or Nanowire transistor, respectively. For example, the upper row 608S of device 600 comprises two Nanosheet cells 601 and 601' each including nanosheet transistors. Nanosheet cell 601 comprises an N-type Nanosheet transistor 610SN and a P-type Nanosheet transistor 610SP. Nanosheet cell 601' comprises an N-type Nanosheet transistor 610SN' and P-type Nanosheet transistor 610SP'. In FIG. 6A, the lower row 608W of device 600 comprises two Nanowire cells 602 and 602' each including nanowire transistors. Nanowire cell 602 comprises N-type Nanowire transistor 610WN and P-type Nanosheet transistor 610WP. Nanowire cell 602' comprises N-type Nanowire transistor 610WN' and P-type Nanowire transistor 610WP'. Substrate 605 also comprises P-type doped region 603 (referred to as a P-well) doped with P-type dopants and N-type doped region 604 (referred to as a N-well) doped with N-type dopants similar to as discussed above. P-well 603 is configured for N-type GAA transistors, including N-type Nanosheet transistors 610SN, 610SN' and N-type Nanowire transistors 610WN, 610WN'. N-well 604 is configured for P-type GAA transistors, including P-type Nanosheet transistors 610SP, 610SP' and P-type Nanowire transistors 610WP, 610WP'. P-well 603 may be an embodiment of the P-well 310, 330, or 350 of layout 300 in FIG. 3. N-well 604 may be referred to as the N-well 320 or 340 of layout 300 in FIG. 3.

An isolation feature 675 (e.g., STI) isolates the active regions 635SN, 635SN', 635SP, 635SP', 635WN, 635WN', 635WP, 635WP' (together referred to as active regions 635) of device 600. As depicted in the embodiment, 635SN, 635SN' are active regions for N-type Nanosheet transistors 610SN and 610SN' respectively; 635SP, 635SP' are active regions for P-type Nanosheet transistors 610SP, 610SP' respectively; 635WN, 635WN' are active regions for N-type Nanowire transistors 610WN, 610WN' respectively; and 635WP, 635WP' are active regions for P-type Nanowire transistors 610WP, 610WP' respectively. Active regions 635 are oriented substantially parallel to one another, each having a length defined in an x-direction, a width defined in a y-direction, and a thickness defined in a z-direction.

Each of the active regions 635 defines at least one channel region (covered by gate structures 630S or 630W), at least one source region, and at least one drain region defined along their length in the x-direction, where a channel region is disposed between a source region and a drain region (generally referred to as source/drain regions). As depicted in FIG. 6B, each channel region of the active regions 635 comprises a stack of channel semiconductor layers 615S or 615W of the Nanosheet transistors 610SN/610SP and Nanowire transistors 610WN/610WP, respectively. In FIG. 6B, the number of the channel semiconductor layers 615S of the Nanosheet transistors 610SN/610SP equals to the number of the channel semiconductor layers of the Nanowire transistors 610WN/610WP. In some embodiments, 2 to 10 layers of the channel semiconductor layers 615 may be vertically stacked over each of the channel regions of the GAA transistors 610. In some embodiments, a thickness in the z-direction of all the channel semiconductor layer 615 are the same. In some other embodiments, a thickness of

each semiconductor layer may not be the same. For example, in the depicted embodiments, the thickness T1 of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers 615S is about 3 nm to about 8 nm; and the thickness T2 of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layers 615W is also about 3 nm to about 8 nm, which is substantially equal to T1. Furthermore, a width in the y-direction of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layer is larger than a width of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layer. For example, in the depicted embodiments, the width W1 of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers 615S (i.e. channel width W1 of Nanosheet transistors 610SN/610SP) is about 12 nm to about 40 nm; and the width W2 of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layers 615W (i.e. channel width W2 of Nanowire transistors 610WN/610WP) is about 4 nm to about 11 nm. In some embodiments, a ratio of the Nanosheet channel width W1 to the Nanowire channel width W2 is about 1.3 to about 10. In some further embodiments, the Nanosheet channel width W1 is at least 1.5 to 4 times of the Nanowire channel width W2.

Gate structures are disposed over the channel regions of GAA transistors 610, such as Nanosheet gate structures 630S of Nanosheet transistors 610SN and 610SP; Nanosheet gate structures 630S' of Nanosheet transistors 610SN' and 610SP'; Nanowire gate structures 630W of Nanowire transistors 610WN and 610WP; and Nanowire gate structures 630W' of Nanowire transistors 610WN' and 610WP'. FIG. 6B depicts the cross-sectional views of the Nanosheet gate structure 630S and the Nanowire gate structure 630W along line 6B-6B in FIG. 6A. In some embodiments, dummy gate structures 630D are disposed between Nanosheet cells 601 and 601' and/or between Nanowire cells 602 and 602' to separate the GAA cells adjacent to each other in a row. Gate structures 630S, 630W, 630S', 630W' and 630D are all referred to as gate structures 630. As shown in FIG. 6A, gate structures 630 are arranged substantially parallel to one another, and each has a length defined in an x-direction between the source/drain regions, and a width defined in a y-direction between gate end dielectric structures 640.

Similar as gate structures 530, each of gate structures 630 comprises a gate stack including a gate dielectric 690, a gate electrode 685, and a hard mask 680. Gate dielectric 690 is conformally disposed around the vertically stacked channel semiconductor layers 615S and 615W, respectively, and interpose the channel semiconductor layers 615S, 615W and the gate electrodes 685. In the depicted embodiment, gate dielectric 690 is also disposed over the substrate 605 and below the gate electrode 685. In some embodiments, gate dielectric 690 has a substantially uniform thickness along all the directions. For example, gate dielectric 690 may have a thickness of about 3 nm or less in all directions. In the depicted embodiment, gate electrode 685 is disposed over the gate dielectric 690, and further around the channel semiconductor layers 615S or 615W. In the depicted embodiment, hard mask 680 is disposed over the gate electrode 685.

Nanosheet gate structures 630S, 630S' and Nanowire gate structure 630W, 630W' engage respective channel regions of Nanosheet transistors 610SN, 610SP, 610SN', 610SP' and Nanowire transistors 610WN, 610WP, 610WN', 610WP', respectively, such that current can flow between respective source/drain regions of the respective Nanosheet and Nanowire transistors during operation. As depicted in FIGS. 6A and 6B, Nanosheet cells 601, 601' and Nanowire cells 602, 602' are arranged in different rows. A length of Nanosheet gate structures 630S, 630S' substantially equals to a length of Nanowire gate structure 630W, 630W'. In

some embodiments, the gate length  $GL$  of each of gate structures **630** may be equal to or less than about 20 nm.

In the depicted embodiment, each of the Nanosheet cells **601**, **601'** comprises two rows of Nanosheet transistors in the y-direction; and each of the Nanowire cells **602**, **602'** comprises two rows of Nanowire transistors in the y-direction. And, the height  $H1$  of Nanosheet cells **601**, **601'** (the upper row **608S**) is larger than the height  $H2$  of Nanowire cells **602**, **602'** (the lower row **608W**). One of the reasons that the height  $H1$  is large than the height  $H2$  is that the channel width (i.e.  $W1$ ) of the Nanosheet transistors is larger than the channel width (i.e.  $W2$ ) of the Nanowire transistors, as shown in FIG. 6B. In the depicted embodiment, the width  $W1$  of Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers **615S** (for example, about 12 nm to about 40 nm) is larger than the width  $W2$  of Nanowire channel semiconductor layers **615W** (for example, about 4 nm to about 11 nm). In some other embodiments, the height  $H1$  may be equal or less than the height  $H2$  by adjusting the width of gate electrode **685** along the y-direction according to the design requirements of device **600**.

As illustrated in FIGS. 6A and 6C, dummy gate structures **630D** are arranged as isolation structures between adjacent Nanosheet cells in one row or Nanowire cells in one row. For example, as depicted in FIG. 6A, one dummy gate structure **630D** configured as a single gate isolation is formed between the Nanosheet cell **601** and the Nanosheet cell **601'**, and another dummy gate structure **630D** configured as a single gate isolation is formed between the Nanowire cell **602** and the Nanowire cell **602'**.

Still referring to FIGS. 6A and 6C, gate structures **630** further include respective gate spacers **620** disposed adjacent to (for example, along sidewalls of) the respective gate stacks. Gate spacers **620** may include a single layer of dielectric material or a multilayer structure having multiple dielectric materials. In some embodiments, gate spacers **620** may have a thickness of a few nanometers.

Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, along the y-direction, at each end of the gate structures **630**, a gate end dielectric structure **640** is formed to isolate the gate structures **630** of different rows of Nanosheet cells or Nanowire cells in device **600**.

Referring to FIG. 6D, epitaxial source/drain features **645S** are formed as source/drain regions of Nanosheet transistors, and epitaxial source/drain features **645W** are formed as the source/drain regions of Nanowire transistors. Epitaxial source/drain features **645S** and **645W** are both referred to as epitaxial source/drain features **645**. In various embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **645** may comprise more than one epitaxial layers, and different epitaxial layers of epitaxial source/drain features **645** may comprise same or different semiconductor materials.

In some embodiments, device **600** comprises silicide layers **625** formed over the epitaxial source/drain features **645** over the source/drain regions. In some embodiments, the silicide layers **625** and epitaxial source/drain features **645** are collectively referred to as the epitaxial source/drain features of device **600**.

As illustrated in FIG. 6D, an inter-level dielectric (ILD) layer **695** is disposed over substrate **605**, especially over the gate structures, source/drain features, and isolation features. In some embodiments, ILD layer **695** can include a multilayer structure having multiple dielectric materials.

Device-level source/drain contacts, gate vias, and source/drain vias are disposed over the gate (channel) regions and source/drain regions and extend through the ILD layer **695** to form interconnect structures. Various conductive materi-

als can be combined to provide device-level contacts, gate vias, and source/drain vias with various layers, such as a barrier layer, an adhesion layer, a liner layer, a bulk layer, other suitable layer, or combinations thereof.

In some embodiments, ILD layer **695**, contacts, and vias are a portion of and/or interconnects to a multilayer interconnect (MLI) feature disposed over substrate **605**. The MLI feature electrically couples various components of device **600**, such that the various components are operable to function as specified by design requirements of device **600**. The vias may provide a connection to a metallization layer (e.g.,  $M0$ ) of the MLI.

Referring again to FIG. 1, as discussed above, the IC **100** may also comprise a third group circuit **130** including a plurality of FinFETs and located in the core area of the IC **100**. The third group FinFET circuit **130** is separated from the adjacent first group Nanosheet circuit **110** and second group Nanowire circuit **120**. In some examples, a distance between the third group FinFET circuit **130** and the first and second Nanosheet/Nanowire circuit **110** and **120** is larger than at least four times of the gate pitch of the FinFET, or four times of the channel pitch of the GAA transistor, or at least four times of both the channel pitch and the gate pitch of the GAA transistors. IC **100** may also comprise a fourth group circuit **140** comprising a plurality of FinFETs and located in the I/O area **105** of the IC **100**.

FIGS. 7A-7D are simplified schematic figures of a device **700**. The device **700** may be located in a core area **101** or an I/O area **105** of the IC **100** according to the schematic layout of FIG. 1. In an embodiment, the device **700** provides, or is a component of, the FinFET based circuit **130** of the core area **101**. In another embodiment, the device **700** provides, or is a component of, the FinFET based circuit **140** of the I/O area **105**. FIG. 7A is a simplified schematic top view of the device **700** (for example, in an x-y plane); FIG. 7B is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **700** along line 7B-7B of FIG. 7A (for example, in a y-z plane); FIG. 7C is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **700** along line 7C-7C of FIG. 7A (for example, in an y-z plane), and FIG. 7D is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of device **700** along line 7D-7D of FIG. 7A (for example, in an x-z plane). FIGS. 7A-7D have been simplified for the sake of clarity to better understand the inventive concepts of the present disclosure. Additional features can be added in device **700**, and some of the features described below can be replaced, modified, or eliminated in other embodiments of device **700**.

As depicted in FIGS. 7A-7D, device **700** comprises a P-type FinFET **710P** and a N-type FinFET **710N** formed over a substrate **705**. In some embodiments, substrate **705** may be the same substrate **505** for device **500** as well as the substrate **605** for device **600**. In other words, in an embodiment, devices **500**, **600** and/or **700** are formed on a single substrate such as to form IC **100** as illustrated in FIG. 1. In some embodiments, substrate **705** includes P-type doped regions (for example, P-type wells) doped with P-type dopants, such as boron (for example, BF<sub>2</sub>), indium, other P-type dopant, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, substrate **705** includes N-type doped regions (for example, N-type wells) doped with N-type dopants, such as phosphorus, arsenic, other N-type dopant, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, substrate **705** includes doped regions formed with a combination of P-type dopants and N-type dopants. In the depicted embodiment, doped region **703** is an N-type well configured for a P-type FinFET **710P** and doped region **704** is a P-type well configured for a N-type FinFET **710N**. The various doped regions can be

formed directly on and/or in substrate **705**, for example, providing a P-well structure, an N-well structure, a dual-well structure, a raised structure, or combinations thereof.

An isolation feature **775** (e.g., STI) is formed over and/or in substrate **705** to isolate various regions, such as various device regions, of device **700**. For example, isolation feature **775** separates and isolates active device regions and/or passive device regions from each other, such as P-type FinFET **710P** and N-type FinFET **710N**. Isolation feature **775** further separates and isolates fins **735P** and **735N** (active fin regions) from one another. In the depicted embodiment, isolation feature **775** surrounds a lower portion of fins **735**. Isolation feature **775** includes silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, other suitable isolation material (for example, including silicon, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, or other suitable isolation constituent), or combinations thereof. Isolation feature **775** can include different structures, such as shallow trench isolation (STI) structures, deep trench isolation (DTI) structures, and/or local oxidation of silicon (LOCOS) structures.

In the depicted embodiment of FIGS. 7A-7D, device **700** includes fins **735** (also referred to as fin active regions) disposed over substrate **705**. In FIGS. 7A-7D, P-type FinFET **710P** includes P-type fins **735P** disposed over N-type doped region **703**; N-type FinFET **710N** includes N-type fins **735N** disposed over P-type doped region **704**. P-type FinFET **710P** and N-type FinFET **710N** are multi-fin FinFETs, though the present disclosure contemplates embodiments where P-type FinFET **710P** and N-type FinFET **710N** include more or less fins, such as a single fin. Fins **735P** and **735N** (all referred to as fins **735**) are oriented substantially parallel to one another, each having a length defined in a x-direction, a width defined in an y-direction, and a height defined in a z-direction. In some examples, as depicted in FIG. 7B, a height **H4** of the fins **735** is about 60 nm to 300 nm. As depicted in FIG. 7B, upper portions of the fins **735** are exposed above the isolation feature **775**. In some embodiments, a height **H5** of the upper portion of the fins **735** above the isolation feature is about 40 nm to 80 nm; and a height **H6** of the lower portion of the fins **735** under the top surface of the isolation feature **775** is about 30 nm to about 250 nm. In the depicted embodiment, a width of fins **735** varies from an upper portion of fins **735** to a lower portion of fins **735**. In the depicted embodiment, the width tapers from the lower portion of fins **735** to the upper portion of fins **735**, such that an average width of the upper portion is less than an average width of the lower portion. In some embodiments, a width of fins **735P** of P-type FinFET **710P** is different than a width of fins **735N** of N-type FinFET **710N**. In some embodiments, the widths are not tapered, such that at least one of fins **735** have substantially the same width along its height. In the depicted embodiment, a width **W3** along the y-direction of the upper portion of the fins **735** is about 4 nm to 15 nm.

Fins **735** provide a channel region (covered by the gate structures **730P** or **730N**). The fins **735** may include or have formed thereon at least one source region and at least one drain region defined along their length in the x-direction, where a channel region is disposed between a source region and a drain region (generally referred to as source/drain regions). In some embodiments, fins **735** are a portion of substrate **705** (such as a portion of a material layer of substrate **705**). For example, in the depicted embodiment, substrate **705** includes silicon, fins **735** include silicon. Alternatively, in some embodiments, fins **735** are defined of a material layer, such as one or more semiconductor material layers, overlying substrate **705**. The semiconductor material

layers can include any suitable semiconductor materials, such as silicon, germanium, silicon germanium, other suitable semiconductor materials, or combinations thereof.

Gate structures are disposed over fins **735**, such as gate structures **730P**, **730N** and **730D** (all refers to gate structures **730**). Gate structures **730** extend along the y-direction (for example, substantially perpendicular to fins **735**). As depicted in FIGS. 7A and 7B, each of gate structures **730** has a length along the x-direction between the source/drain regions. The gate length of device **700** (for example, FinFETs in the third group circuit **130**) is larger than the gate length of Nanosheet and/or Nanowire transistors (for example, GAA transistors in the first group circuit **110** and the second group circuit **120**). In some embodiments, the gate length of the GAA transistors is less than 20 nm, and the gate length of the FinFETs is larger than 30 nm. In other words, the gate length of the FinFETs is at least 1.5 times of the gate length of the GAA transistors. Device **700** comprises FinFET **710P** and **710N** arranged in two rows, device **700** has a height **H3** in y-direction. The height **H3** is not related with the height **H1** and/or **H2**. Thus, the height **H3** may be larger than, equal to, or less than the height **H1** and/or **H2**.

In the depicted embodiment, gate structures **730P** and **730N** are disposed over the channel regions of fins **735**. In some embodiments, gate structures **730P** and **730N** wrap respective channel regions of fins **735**, thereby interposing respective source/drain regions of fins **735**. Gate structures **730P** and **730N** engage respective channel regions of fins **735**, such that current can flow between respective source/drain regions of fins **735** during operation. In furtherance of the depicted embodiment, gate structures **730P** and **730N** are active gate structures, whereas gate structures **730D** are dummy gate structures to isolate device **700** from other devices in the IC **100**. In some embodiments, gate structures **730D** enable a substantially uniform processing environment, for example, enabling uniform epitaxial material growth in source/drain regions of fins **735** (for example, when forming epitaxial source/drain features), uniform etch rates in source/drain regions of fins **735** (for example, when forming source/drain recesses), and/or uniform, substantially planar surfaces (for example, by reducing (or preventing) CMP-induced dishing effects).

Referring to FIGS. 7B and 7D, gate structures **730P** and **730N** include gate stacks configured to achieve desired functionality according to design requirements of device **700**. Gate structures **730** may include same or different layers and/or materials. In the depicted embodiment, gate structures **730** have gate stacks that include gate dielectrics **790** and gate electrode **785P**, **785N** and **785D**.

Gate dielectrics **790** are conformally disposed over fins **735P**, **735N** and isolation feature **775**, such that gate dielectrics **790** have a substantially uniform thickness. Gate dielectrics **790** include a dielectric material, such as silicon oxide, high-k dielectric material, other suitable dielectric material, or combinations thereof. In the depicted embodiment, gate dielectrics **790** include a high-k dielectric material (and thus may be referred to as a high-k dielectric layer), such as hafnium dioxide (HfO<sub>2</sub>), HfSiO, HfSiON, HfTaO, HfTiO, HfZrO, zirconium oxide, aluminum oxide, hafnium dioxide-alumina (HfO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) alloy, other suitable high-k dielectric material, or combinations thereof.

Depending on the location (core area **101** or I/O area **105** of the IC **100**) of the FinFET device **700**, a thickness of the gate dielectrics may be different. In some embodiments, the thickness of gate dielectrics of FinFETs in the fourth group circuit **140** in the I/O area **105** of the IC **100** is larger than

the thickness of gate dielectrics of FinFETs in the third group circuit **130** in the core area **101** of the IC **100**. In some embodiments, the thickness of gate dielectrics of GAA transistors or FinFETs in the core area **101** (including Nanosheet transistors in the first group circuit **110**, Nanowire transistors in the second group circuit **120**, and FinFETs in the third group circuit **130**) are substantially the same. For example, a thickness of gate dielectric of GAA transistors and/or FinFETs (the first, second, and third group circuits) in the core area **101** is less than about 3 nm, and a thickness of the gate dielectric of the FinFETs (the fourth group circuit) in the I/O area **105** is thicker than about 4 nm.

Still referring to FIGS. 7A-7D, gate electrodes **785P**, **785N**, and **785D** (all referred to as gate electrodes **785**) are disposed over gate dielectric **790**. Gate electrodes **785P** and **785N** includes an electrically conductive material. In some embodiments, the electrically conductive material of FinFET gate electrodes **785P** and **785N** is substantially the same as the electrically conductive material of the Nanosheet/Nanowire gate electrodes **585** and **685** for device **500** and **600**, respectively. In some other embodiments, the electrically conductive material of FinFET gate electrodes **785P** and **785N** is different from the electrically conductive material of the Nanosheet/Nanowire gate electrodes **585** and **685**. Gate electrodes **785D** include dielectric dummy gate material. In some embodiments, each of gate electrodes **785P** and **785N** may comprise multiple layers, such as a capping layer, a work function layer, a glue/barrier layer, and a metal fill (or bulk) layer. The capping layer includes a metal and nitrogen, such as titanium nitride (TiN), tantalum nitride (TaN), tungsten nitride (W<sub>2</sub>N), titanium silicon nitride (TiSiN), tantalum silicon nitride (TaSiN), or combinations thereof. The work function materials include TiN, TaN, TiAl, TiAlN, TaAl, TaAlN, TaAlC, TaCN, Al, W, Cu, Co, Ni, Pt, or any combination thereof. The glue/barrier layer includes metal (for example, W, Al, Ta, Ti, Ni, Cu, Co, other suitable metal, or combinations thereof), metal oxides, metal nitrides (for example, TiN), or combinations thereof. The metal fill layer includes a suitable conductive material, such as Al, W, and/or Cu.

Gate structures **730** further include respective gate spacers **720** disposed adjacent to (for example, along sidewalls of) the respective gate stacks. Gate spacers **720** comprise a dielectric material selected from silicon, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, low-k dielectric ( $k < 3.5$ ), other suitable material, or combinations thereof (for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or silicon carbide). Gate spacers **720** may include a single layer or a multilayer structure. In some embodiments, gate spacers **720** may have a thickness of few nanometers.

Epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are disposed in or over fins **735**. For example, semiconductor material is epitaxially grown on fins **735**, forming epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N**. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are formed over the source/drain regions of fins **735** after a fin recess process (for example, an etch back process), such that epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are grown from recessed fins **735**. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** wrap the source/drain regions of fins **735**. In such embodiments, fins **735** may not be subjected to a fin recess process. As illustrated in FIGS. 7C and 7D, epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** can extend (grow) laterally along the y-direction (in some embodiments, substantially perpendicular to fins **735**), such that epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are merged epitaxial source/drain features that span more than

one fin. For example, in the depicted embodiment, epitaxial source/drain feature **745P** spans two fins **735P**; and epitaxial source/drain feature **745N** spans two fins **735N**. In some other embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** may not be merged in the y-direction. Epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are doped with N-type dopants and/or P-type dopants. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** include materials and/or dopants that achieve desired tensile stress and/or compressive stress in the channel region.

In some embodiments, silicide layers are formed on epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N**. In some embodiments, the silicide layers include nickel silicide, titanium silicide, or cobalt silicide. In some embodiments, the silicide layers **725** and epitaxial source/drain features **745P** and **745N** are collectively referred to as the epitaxial source/drain features of device **700**.

One or more dielectric layers are disposed over substrate **705**, such as interlayer dielectric (ILD) layer **795**. ILD layer **795** include a dielectric material including, for example, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, TEOS formed oxide, PSG, BPSG, low-k dielectric material, other suitable dielectric material, or combinations thereof. Exemplary low-k dielectric materials include FSG, carbon doped silicon oxide, Black Diamond® (Applied Materials of Santa Clara, Calif.), Xerogel, Aerogel, amorphous fluorinated carbon, Parylene, BCB, SILK® (Dow Chemical, Midland, Mich.), polyimide, other low-k dielectric material, or combinations thereof. ILD layer **795** can include a multilayer structure having multiple dielectric materials. Device-level contacts **715A-715E** are disposed in ILD layer **795** provide connection to the respective feature. In the depicted embodiment, contacts **715A-715D** are source/drain contacts and contact **715E** is a gate contact. Device-level contacts **715A-715E** include any suitable electrically conductive material, such as Ta, Ti, Al, Cu, Co, W, TiN, TaN, other suitable conductive materials, or combinations thereof. Various conductive materials can be combined to provide device-level contacts **715A-715E** with various layers, such as a barrier layer, an adhesion layer, a liner layer, a bulk layer, other suitable layer, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, device-level contacts **715A-715E** include Ti, TiN, or other suitable materials.

Overlying the device **700**, metal lines and interposing vias may be formed between/through different ILD layers to work with the device-level contacts to electrically couples various devices (for example, transistors, resistors, capacitors, and/or inductors) and/or components (for example, gate structures and/or source/drain features) of the device **700**, such that the various devices and/or components can operate as specified by design requirements of the device **700** and/or the IC it is contained within such as the IC **100**.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart of a method **800** for fabricating an integrated circuit, for example, the IC **100** in FIG. 1, according to various aspects of the present disclosure. The method **800** is merely an example and is not intended to limit the present disclosure beyond what is explicitly recited in the claims. Additional operations can be provided before, during, and after the method **800**, and some operations described can be replaced, eliminated, or moved around for additional embodiments of the method.

At operation **810**, a substrate is provided, and a stack of semiconductor layers are formed over the substrate. The substrate may be substantially similar to the substrates **505**, **605**, and/or **705** as discussed above. The substrate comprises regions for GAA transistors (i.e. GAA regions, for example, the GAA region **106** including the first group circuit **110** and

the second group circuit **120** as depicted in FIG. 1) and regions for FinFETs (i.e. FinFET regions, for example, the FinFET region **107** including the third group circuit **130** in the core area **101** of IC **100** as depicted in FIG. 1, or another FinFET region including the fourth group circuit **140** in the I/O area **105** of IC **100**). The closest distance between the boundaries of the GAA regions and the FinFET regions is D, which is at least four (4) times of the gate pitch of the GAA transistors, or four times of the channel pitch of the GAA transistors, or four times of both.

A stack of semiconductor layers comprising different semiconductor materials may be formed over the substrate by suitable processes. The different materials of the semiconductor layers may be chosen based on providing differing oxidation rates and/or etch selectivity. In the depicted embodiment, semiconductor layers comprising different semiconductor materials (for example, a first semiconductor layer including Si and a second semiconductor layer including SiGe) are alternately grown on the substrate by an epitaxy grown process.

At operation **820**, portions of the semiconductor layer stack in the FinFET region is removed by various process, including lithography and etching. For example, a masking element is formed over the substrate through a photolithography process. The mask element exposes the FinFET regions and covers the GAA regions. Subsequently, the semiconductor layer stack in the FinFET regions is etched through the masking element. The etching processes may include one or more dry etching processes, wet etching processes, and other suitable etching techniques.

Additional silicon material may be epitaxially grown in the FinFET region of the substrate after removal of the semiconductor layer stack. The FinFET region may be located in the core area and/or the I/O area of the IC as illustrated in FIG. 1. The GAA region may be located in the core area of the IC as illustrated in FIG. 1. A distance between the FinFET region in the core area and the GAA region in the core area is at least four time of the CPP (gate pitch) of the GAA transistors, at least four times of the channel pitch of the GAA transistors, or at least four time of both the CPP (gate pitch) and channel pitch of the GAA transistors.

Still at operation **820**, an isolation feature (for example, isolation feature **575**, **675**, and **775** (STI)) is formed to pattern the active regions over the substrate. In some embodiments, one masking element may be used to pattern the active regions (fin-like features of the stack of semiconductor materials) in the GAA region as well as the fin active regions in the FinFET region. The active regions may be defined according to a layout shown in FIGS. **2**, **3**, **4**, **5A**, **6A**, and **7A**, or according to other layout diagrams. In some other embodiments, different masking elements are used to form the active regions in the GAA region and/or the FinFET region. The etching process may comprise a dry etching process, a wet etching process, or another suitable etching technique. Subsequently, a layer of dielectric material is deposited over the substrate by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), plasma enhanced CVD (PECVD), physical vapor deposition (PVD), thermal oxidation, or other techniques to form the isolation structure (e.g., STI). A CMP process may be performed to planarize a top surface of the IC. The layer of dielectric material may then be recessed to form the isolation feature, which isolates various active regions of the substrate, for example, extending above the isolation features (e.g., fins of epitaxial grown material in the FinFET region as discussed above and fins of the stack of semiconductor materials in the GAA region, as discussed above).

GAA transistors and FinFET transistors may then be separately formed in different regions, i.e. GAA regions and FinFET regions, of the substrate. In some embodiments, some of the processes, for example, operations **830** or **890** may be performed together in GAA regions and FinFET regions. Other processes, for example, operations **840-880** and operations **845-885** are performed separately in different regions. When processes (operations **840-880**) are performed in GAA regions, a mask element is applied to cover the FinFET regions; when processes (operations **845-885**) are performed in FinFET regions, a mask element is applied to cover the GAA regions. In some other embodiments, all following processes are performed separately in GAA regions and FinFET regions. For example, operations **830**, **840-880**, and **890** are performed in GAA regions while FinFET regions are covered by a mask; or, operations **830**, **845-885**, and **890** are performed in FinFET regions while GAA regions are covered by a mask. In further some embodiments, some of the separated processes in FIG. 9 may be combined and performed together in different regions. For example, operations **850** and **855** may be combined and performed together in GAA regions and FinFET regions. Operations **860** and **865** may be combined and performed together in GAA regions and FinFET regions. Details of these operations will be discussed in the following portion of the present disclosure.

At operation **830**, dummy gate stacks and spacers are formed over the channel regions of the active regions of the transistors in the GAA regions and/or the FinFET regions (for example, the position where the gate structures **530**, **630**, and **730** are located). The dummy gate stacks, including single or multiple layers of materials, engages the fins at the channel region. In some embodiments, a poly layer may be formed by suitable deposition processes such as low-pressure chemical vapor deposition (LPCVD) and PECVD. An etch stop layer and/or a hard mask layer each may be formed over the poly layer by chemical oxidation, thermal oxidation, atomic layer deposition (ALD), CVD, and/or other suitable methods. A length of the dummy gate stacks defined in the x-direction is different in GAA regions and in FinFET regions. For example, a gate length in the GAA regions is less than 20 nm, and a gate length in the FinFET region is larger than 30 nm. In some embodiments, a gate length ratio of the dummy gate stacks in the FinFET region and the GAA region is greater than 1.5.

Thereafter, gate spacers (for example, spacers **520**, **620**, and/or **720**) and gate end dielectric structures (for example, gate end dielectric structures **540**, **640**) are formed along the sidewalls of the dummy gate stacks. A spacer layer is deposited over the device, covering the various features thereon. The spacer layer is then etched by an anisotropic etching process. Portions of the spacer layer on the sidewall surfaces of the dummy gate stack substantially remain and become the gate spacers. Portions of the spacer layer at the ends of the dummy gate stack substantially remain and become the gate end dielectric structures.

At operation **840**, portions of semiconductor layer stack in the source/drain regions of the GAA active regions are removed. The portions of semiconductor layer stack in the source/drains may be etched through an opening of a mask element to form trenches in the source/drain regions of the GAA active regions. The mask element is then removed and portion of the semiconductor layer stack in the channel regions of the GAA active regions are exposed.

At operation **845**, portions of the source/drain regions of the FinFET fins are removed. A mask element exposing only the source/drain regions of the FinFET fins is formed over

the substrate. The source/drain regions of the FinFET fins are then removed through the mask element by any suitable etching process, including wet etching, dry etching, or combinations thereof.

At operations **850** and **855**, epitaxy source/drain features are grown over the source/drain regions of GAA active regions and/or FinFET active regions, respectively. The epitaxy source/drain features grown over the source/drain regions of GAA active regions may be referred to as the source/drain features **545** of device **500** and/or source/drain features **645** of device **600**; and the epitaxy source/drain features grown over the source/drain regions of FinFET fins may be referred to as the source/drain features **745** of device **700**. An epitaxy process can implement CVD deposition, MBE processes, other suitable SEG processes, or combinations thereof. The epitaxy process can use gaseous and/or liquid precursors, which interact with the composition of the fins/active regions. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features are doped during deposition by adding impurities to a source material of the epitaxy process. In some embodiments, epitaxial source/drain features are doped by an ion implantation process subsequent to a deposition process. In some embodiments, annealing processes are performed to activate dopants in the epitaxial source/drain features.

In some embodiments, silicide layers (for example, silicide layers **525**, **625**, and **725**) are formed over the epitaxy source/drain features. For example, silicide layers are formed by depositing a metal layer over the epitaxial source/drain features. An annealing process is then applied to cause constituents of epitaxial S/D features to react with the metal layer, so that the silicide layers include metal and a constituent of epitaxial S/D features. Any un-reacted metal, such as remaining portions of the metal layer, is selectively removed by any suitable process, such as an etching process.

At operations **860** and **865**, an ILD layer is formed in the GAA regions and/or the FinFET regions over the substrate. The ILD layer may be referred to as the ILD layer **595**, **695**, and **795** for device **500**, **600**, and **700**, respectively. The ILD layer may be deposited by a PECVD process, a flowable CVD (FCVD) process, or other suitable deposition technique. In an embodiment, after the ILD layer are deposited, a CMP process is performed to planarize a top surface of the IC, which may also remove the hard mask layers and the etch stop layers of the dummy gate stacks. As a result, the poly layers of the dummy gate stacks are exposed from a top surface of the IC.

At operation **870**, in the GAA regions, portions of the dummy gate stacks over the GAA channel regions (for example, in the place of **530S**, **530W**, **630S**, **630S'**, **630W**, and **630W'**) are removed to form an opening in place of the dummy gate stacks between the gate spacers. The GAA channel regions, i.e. the semiconductor layer stack comprising the first semiconductor layers (for example, including Si) and the second semiconductor layers (for example, including SiGe), are then exposed in the opening.

In the depicted embodiments, the dummy gate stacks between the different type of GAA cells, (for example, in place of the dummy gate structures **530D** or **630D** between the Nanosheet cell and the Nanowire cell) are also removed to form trenches therein. Dielectric material may then be disposed in the trenches to form the dielectric isolation structures, (for example, the isolation structures **270** or **470** in FIG. 2 or 4, respectively) to isolate of the adjacent GAA cells.

Still at operation **870**, portions of the second semiconductor layers (for example, including SiGe) are removed

through the opening. An oxidation process may be applied to the second semiconductor layers (for example, semiconductor layers including SiGe) of the exposed semiconductor layer stack in the channel regions of the GAA active regions.

In some other embodiments, the oxidation process is a selective oxidation due to the different oxidation rates of the different materials of the semiconductor layers. Therefore, the semiconductor layers in the channel regions of the GAA active regions comprises alternating semiconductor layers including alternating materials, such as Si and SiGeOx, in different layers. The oxidized second semiconductor layers are then removed by a selective etching process. As a result, portions of the first semiconductor layers (for example, including Si) in the GAA channel regions are suspended in the opening. The suspended first semiconductor layers referred to as the channel semiconductor layers **515** and **615** for device **500** and **600**, respectively. As discussed above, the widths of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers and Nanowire channel semiconductor layers are different. In some embodiments, the width of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers is about 1.3 to about 10 times of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layers. In some further embodiments, the width of the Nanosheet channel semiconductor layers is about 1.5 to about 4 times of the Nanowire channel semiconductor layers.

At operation **875**, in the FinFET region, portions of the dummy gate stacks over the FinFET channel regions (for example, in the place of **730P**, **730N**) are removed (for example, by etching) to form openings therein.

At operation **880**, GAA gate stacks are formed over the channel region of GAA active regions (for example, in the place of **530S**, **530W**, **630S**, **630S'**, **630W**, and **630W'**). The GAA gate stacks fill the channel regions and wraps around each of the suspended channel semiconductor layers in the channel regions of GAA active regions. In some embodiments, first, dielectric layers (may be referred to as the dielectric layers of **590** and **690** of device **500** and **600**, respectively) may be formed by chemical oxidation, thermal oxidation, ALD, CVD, and/or other suitable methods. In some embodiments, a thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the GAA gate stacks is less than about 3 nm. Subsequently, gate electrodes (may be referred to as the gate electrodes **585** and **685**) including a work function layer, a metal fill layer, and some other layers may be deposited to wrap around the dielectric layers and further wrap around the channel semiconductor layers. The work function layer may be deposited by CVD, PVD, and/or other suitable process. The metal fill layer may be formed by CVD, PVD, plating, and/or other suitable processes. Thereafter, a hard mask layer (may be referred to as the hard mask layers **580** and **680**) is then deposited over the gate stacks. A CMP process is then performed to planarize a top surface of the IC.

In operation **885**, FinFET gate stacks are formed in the gate openings over the FinFET channel regions (for example, in the place of **730P** and **730N** of device **700**). The FinFET gate stacks fills the openings in the FinFET channel regions. In some embodiments, a dielectric layer may be formed by chemical oxidation, thermal oxidation, ALD, CVD, and/or other suitable methods. In some embodiments, a thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFET gate stacks in the core area of IC is substantially equal to the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the GAA gate stacks. For example, the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFET gate stacks in the core area is less than about 3 nm. In some embodiments, a thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFET gate stacks in the I/O area of IC is thicker than

the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the GAA gate stacks or FinFET gate stacks in the core area of IC. For example, the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFET gate stacks in the I/O area is more than about 4 nm. In other words, the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the FinFET in the I/O area is more than 1.3 times of the gate dielectric of the transistors (FinFET, Nanosheet or Nanowire transistors) in the core area.

Subsequently, gate electrodes (may be referred to as the gate electrodes **785P** and **785N** of device **700**) including a work function layer, a metal fill layer, and some other layers may be deposited by CVD, PVD, plating, and/or other suitable processes. A hard mask layer may then be deposited over the gate stacks by chemical oxidation, thermal oxidation, ALD, CVD, and/or other suitable methods. A CMP process is then performed to planarize a top surface of the IC. The CMP process after formation of the FinFET gate stacks may be combined with the CMP process after formation of the GAA gate stacks.

At operation **890**, further processes are performed to complete the fabrication of the IC. For example, it may form contact openings, contact layers in the source/drain regions, as well as various contacts (for example, contacts **550**, **650**, **750**), vias (for example, gate vias **560** and source/drain vias **570**), wires, and multilayer interconnect features (e.g., metal layers and interlayer dielectrics) over the substrate, configured to connect the various features to form a functional circuit. Multiple lithography, etching, and deposition steps may be involved in the operation of **890**.

Although not intended to be limiting, one or more embodiments of the present disclosure provide many benefits to an integrated circuit and a formation process thereof. For example, embodiments of the present disclosure provide an IC design integrated long channel devices (for example FinFET devices) and different short channel devices (for example, Nanosheet and/or Nanowire devices) in one chip. The mixture of the long channel devices and short channel devices can provide design flexibility for speed and power optimization. In addition, using long channel devices in a design comprising short channel devices can help with the process margin improvement.

The present disclosure provides for many different embodiments. Integrated circuit having an integration layout and methods of fabrication thereof are disclosed herein. An exemplary integrated circuit includes a first cell including one or more first type gate-all-around (GAA) transistors located in a first region of the integrated circuit. The integrated circuit also includes a second cell including one or more second type GAA transistors located in the first region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second cell is disposed adjacently to the first cell, wherein the first type GAA transistors are one of nanosheet transistors or nanowire transistors and the second type GAA transistors are the other one of nanosheet transistors or nanowire transistors. And, the integrated circuit also includes a third cell including one or more fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) located in a second region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second region is disposed a distance from the first region of the integrated circuit.

In some embodiments, the distance between the first region and the second region of the integrated circuit is at least four times of a gate pitch of the first or second type GAA transistors, or at least four times of a channel pitch of the first or second type GAA transistors, or at least four times of both the gate pitch and the channel pitch of the first or second type GAA transistors.

In some embodiments, an isolation structure is disposed between the first cell and the second cell disposed adjacent in a first row of cells in the first region of the integrated circuit. In a further embodiment, the integrated circuit further comprises a second row of cells including a plurality of cells each having one or more first type GAA transistors, and the second row of cells is abutted to the first row of cells in the integrated circuit.

In some other embodiments, the first cell including one or more first type GAA transistors and the second cell including one or more second type GAA transistors are arranged in different rows of cell, respectively, in the first region of the integrated circuit, and the different rows of cell are abutted together in the first region of the integrated circuit.

In some embodiments, an isolation structure is disposed in the distance between the first region and the second region of the integrated circuit.

In some embodiments, a channel semiconductor layer of the one or more first type GAA transistors has a first width, a channel semiconductor layer of the one or more second type GAA transistors has a second width, wherein a ratio of the first width to the second width is about 1.3 to about 10.

In some embodiments, the first cell or the second cell is one of a NAND gate, a NOR gate, an AND gate, an OR gate, a NOT gate, an XOR gate, an XNOR gate, a Flip-Flop, or a latch.

In some embodiments, a channel semiconductor layer of the one or more first type GAA transistors has a first thickness, a channel semiconductor layer of the one or more second type GAA transistors has a second thickness, wherein the first thickness is substantially equal to the second thickness.

In some embodiments, a ratio of a gate length of the FinFETs in the third cell to a gate length of the first type GAA transistors in the first cell or a gate length of the second type GAA transistors in the second cell is greater than or equal to about 1.5.

In some embodiments, a gate length of the one or more FinFETs in the third cell is larger than about 30 nm, and a gate length of the one or more first type GAA transistors in the plurality of first cells or a gate length of the one or more second type GAA transistors in the plurality of second cells is less than about 20 nm.

Another integrated circuit comprises a first circuit including one or more first type gate-all-around (GAA) transistors formed in a GAA region in a core area of a substrate and a second circuit including one or more second type GAA transistors formed in the GAA region in the core area of the substrate, wherein the second circuit is disposed adjacent to the first circuit. The integrated circuit also comprises a third circuit including one or more fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) formed in a FinFET region in the core area of the substrate, wherein the FinFET region is disposed a distance from the GAA region. And, the integrated circuit further comprises a fourth circuit including one or more FinFETs formed over an input/output (I/O) area of the substrate.

In some embodiments, a thickness of a gate dielectric layer of the one or more first type GAA transistors in the first circuit, a thickness of a gate dielectric layer of the one or more second type GAA transistors in the second circuit, and a thickness of a gate dielectric layer of the one or more FinFETs in the third circuit are substantially the same. And, a thickness of a gate dielectric layer of the one or more FinFETs in the fourth circuit is thicker than the thickness of the gate dielectric layer of the transistors in the first circuit.

In some further embodiments, the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is at least four times of

a gate pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistors, or at least four times of a channel pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistors, or at least four times of both the gate pitch and the channel pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistors.

In yet some further embodiments, the gate pitch of adjacent first or second type GAA transistors are substantially the same, or the channel pitch of adjacent first or second type GAA transistors are substantially the same in the core area of the substrate.

An exemplary method for forming an integrated circuit comprises forming a stack of semiconductor layers over a substrate, wherein the stack of semiconductor layers includes a first semiconductor layer of a first semiconductor material and a second semiconductor layer of a second semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material being different than the first semiconductor material. The method also comprises removing a portion of the stack of semiconductor layers through a photoresist mask to form a fin-like field effect transistor (FinFET) region over the substrate, wherein a remained portion of the stack of semiconductor layers forms a gate-all-around (GAA) region over the substrate, the FinFET region is formed a distance from the GAA region. The method further comprises forming a first type GAA cell including a first type GAA transistor and a second type GAA cell including a second type GAA transistor in the GAA region, wherein each of the first type GAA transistor and the second type GAA transistor includes a channel region formed by a portion of the first semiconductor layer of the stack of semiconductor layers; and forming a FinFET cell including a FinFET in the FinFET region.

In some embodiments, the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is at least four times of a gate pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistor, or at least four times of a channel pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistor, or at least four times of both the gate pitch and the channel pitch of the first or the second type GAA transistor.

In some embodiments, forming a first type GAA cell and a second type GAA cell in the GAA region includes forming the first type GAA cell and the second type GAA cell adjacently in a first row of cells, wherein an isolation structure is disposed between the first type GAA cell and the second type GAA cell.

In some further embodiments, forming a first type GAA cell and a second type GAA cell in the GAA region also includes forming only the first type GAA cell or only the second type GAA cell in a second row of cells, wherein the second row of cells is abutted to the first row of cells.

In some other embodiments, forming a first type GAA cell and a second type GAA cell in the GAA region includes forming a first row of cells including the first type GAA cells and not the second type GAA cells; and forming a second row of cells including the second type GAA cells and not the first type GAA cells, wherein the second row of cells is abutted to the first row of cells.

The foregoing outlines features of several implementations so that those skilled in the art may better understand the aspects of the present disclosure. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that they may readily use the present disclosure as a basis for designing or modifying other processes and structures for carrying out the same purposes and/or achieving the same advantages of the implementations introduced herein. Those skilled in the art should also realize that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, and that they

may make various changes, substitutions, and alterations herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated circuit comprising:
  - a first cell including first gate-all-around (GAA) transistors located in a first region of the integrated circuit;
  - a second cell including second GAA transistors located in the first region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second cell is disposed directly adjacent to the first cell, the first GAA transistors have first channel semiconductor layers having a first width, and the second GAA transistors have second channel semiconductor layers having a second width that is different than the first width; and
  - a third cell including fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) located in a second region of the integrated circuit, wherein the second region of the integrated circuit does not share an interface with the first region of the integrated circuit and a distance between the second region of the integrated circuit and the first region of the integrated circuit is equal to at least four times a first gate pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second gate pitch of the second GAA transistors.
2. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the first gate pitch of the first GAA transistors is equal to the second gate pitch of the second GAA transistors.
3. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the distance between the second region of the integrated circuit and the first region of the integrated circuit is further equal to at least four times a first channel pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second channel pitch of the second GAA transistors.
4. The integrated circuit of claim 3, wherein the first channel pitch of the first GAA transistors is the same as the second channel pitch of the second GAA transistors.
5. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the first region and the second region are located in a core area of the integrated circuit.
6. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the first region is located in a core area of the integrated circuit and the second region is located in an input/output area of the integrated circuit.
7. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the first width to the second width is about 1.3 to about 10.
8. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein:
  - the first region includes a p-well and an n-well disposed in a substrate, wherein the n-well is directly adjacent to the p-well;
  - the first GAA transistors include a first n-type GAA transistor disposed over the p-well and a first p-type GAA transistor disposed over the n-well; and
  - the second GAA transistors include a second n-type GAA transistor disposed over the p-well and a second p-type GAA transistor disposed over the n-well.
9. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein:
  - the first region includes an n-well, a first p-well, and a second p-well disposed in a substrate, wherein the n-well is disposed directly between the first p-well and the second p-well;
  - the first GAA transistors include a first n-type GAA transistor disposed over the first p-well and a first p-type GAA transistor disposed over the n-well; and
  - the second GAA transistors include a second n-type GAA transistor disposed over the second p-well and a second p-type GAA transistor disposed over the n-well.
10. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein a first ratio of a gate length of the FinFETs to a gate length of the first

GAA transistors is at least about 1.5, and a second ratio of the gate length of the FinFETs to a gate length of the second GAA transistors is at least about 1.5.

11. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein a gate length of the FinFETs in the third cell is greater than about 30 nm, a gate length of the first GAA transistors is less than about 20 nm, and a gate length of the second GAA transistors is less than about 20 nm.

12. An integrated circuit comprising:

a first circuit including first gate-all-around (GAA) transistors formed in a GAA region in a core area of a substrate;

a second circuit including second GAA transistors formed in the GAA region in the core area of the substrate, wherein the second circuit is disposed directly adjacent to the first circuit, the second circuit is isolated from the second circuit by a dummy isolation gate structure, the first GAA transistors have first channel layers having a first configuration, and the second GAA transistors have second channel layers having a second configuration that is different than the first configuration;

a third circuit including fin-like field effect transistors (FinFETs) formed in a FinFET region in the core area of the substrate, wherein the FinFET region is disposed a distance from the GAA region, such that the FinFET region does not share an interface with the GAA region; and

a fourth circuit including FinFETs formed over an input/output (I/O) area of the substrate.

13. The integrated circuit of claim 12, wherein a first thickness of a first gate dielectric layer of the first GAA transistors in the first circuit, a second thickness of a second gate dielectric layer of the second GAA transistors in the second circuit, and a third thickness of a third gate dielectric layer of the FinFETs in the third circuit are substantially the same; and

a fourth thickness of a fourth gate dielectric layer of the one or more FinFETs in the fourth circuit is thicker than the first thickness of the first gate dielectric layer of the first GAA transistors in the first circuit.

14. The integrated circuit of claim 12, wherein the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is equal to at least four times a first gate pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second gate pitch of the second GAA transistors.

15. The integrated circuit of claim 12, wherein the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is at least four times a first channel pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second channel pitch of the second GAA transistors.

16. A method for forming an integrated circuit, comprising:

forming a stack of semiconductor layers over a substrate, wherein the stack of semiconductor layers includes a first semiconductor layer of a first semiconductor mate-

rial and a second semiconductor layer of a second semiconductor material, the second semiconductor material being different than the first semiconductor material;

removing a portion of the stack of semiconductor layers through a photoresist mask to form a fin-like field effect transistor (FinFET) region over the substrate, wherein a remaining portion of the stack of semiconductor layers forms a gate-all-around (GAA) region over the substrate, and further wherein the FinFET region is formed a distance from the GAA region and does not share an interface with the GAA region;

forming a first GAA cell including first GAA transistors and a second GAA cell including second GAA transistors in the GAA region, wherein the second GAA cell is disposed directly adjacent to the first GAA cell, the first GAA transistors have first channel semiconductor layers having a first width formed by a first portion of the first semiconductor layer of the stack of semiconductor layers, the second GAA transistors have second channel semiconductor layers having a second width formed by a second portion of the first semiconductor layer of the stack of semiconductor layers, and further wherein the second width is different than the first width and the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is equal to at least four times a first gate pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second gate pitch of the second GAA transistors; and

forming a FinFET cell including a FinFET in the FinFET region.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the distance between the FinFET region and the GAA region is further equal to at least four times a first channel pitch of the first GAA transistors or a second channel pitch of the second GAA transistors.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the forming the first GAA cell and the second GAA cell in the GAA region comprises:

forming the first GAA cell and the second GAA cell in a same row of cells, wherein an isolation structure is disposed between the first GAA cell and the second GAA cell.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the forming the first GAA cell and the second GAA cell in the GAA region further comprises:

forming the first GAA cell in a first row of cells and the second GAA cell in a second row of cells, wherein the second row of cells is abutted to the first row of cells, such that the second GAA cell is disposed directly adjacent to the first GAA cell.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the first row of cells includes only first GAA cells and the second row of cells includes only second GAA cells.

\* \* \* \* \*